



FIRM IS READY TO RECRUIT 180

Report by Jamie Brassington

A MAJOR recruitment drive has been launched by a Halesowen-based engineering company to create more than 180 apprenticeships.

Lander Automotive, Woodgate Business Park, which manufactures products for the motor vehicle industry, is aiming to recruit young people to join the company over the next two years.

Lander Automotive operations director Len Palmer said: "Their apprenticeship will initially be for 12 months and they will then have the opportunity to progress onto an 18-month second year apprenticeship, expanding the lean manufacturing and skills for operational excellence."

"Growing the business through the apprenticeship route will regenerate our workforce, bring some fresh blood into the business and address future skills shortages."

He continued: "Our aim is to have a multi-skilled workforce who have the capabilities to further develop the business in this area - creating even more job opportunities in the local community."

Components

The company currently employs 400 people at its purpose-built engineering plant and is expanding and upskilling the workforce.

A bespoke Adult Apprenticeship skills programme will also be set up for existing staff.

The company makes parts that are used in vehicles made by such as Jaguar, Land Rover and Nissan. These include full seat metal structures, fluid pipes and cooling system pipes, airbag pipes and airbag canisters along with instrument panels and chassis components.

Mr Palmer paid tribute to the history of Black Country manufacturing which will help youngsters have a good understanding of engineering.

He said: "This area is traditionally rooted in the automotive industry and I am sure that many of the young people applying for apprenticeship roles with us will have a family history of working in this field and therefore a good understanding of the extensive career opportunities available to them."

The apprenticeship will be delivered with the help of Sigma Group and Derby College. Those interested in applying can get in touch via the www.apprenticeshipvacancy.matchingservice.lsc.gov.uk website.

Mr Palmer added: "With an expanding worldwide order book, we have teamed up with Sigma Group to grow and develop our workforce and are keen to source this future talent from the local community."

Sigma Group CEO Brendan Hand said it would be the first manufacturing skills Academy in the area.

ROMSTOCK REVELS WILL ROCK VILLAGE AGAIN



Acts get ready for this Saturday's village music festival at Romsley, which promises to be the best yet, to mark its fifth year

A VILLAGE music festival returns this weekend with a bumper line-up of entertainment.

Organisers say the line up for the Romstock Festival is the best they have assembled for the annual event held in Romsley, near Halesowen. On Saturday it returns for the fifth year.

Highlights include tribute bands, folk and soul acts and DJs.

Alongside the music, there will be food stalls, bars and activities such as bouncy castles.

Tribute acts Okasis and The Jam DRC

feature along with folk rockers Colin Hall's Gypsy Blood and ska/soul band Rudi and the Revolvers. Stourbridge's Esther Turner, Izzy the Push, The Starving Dogs and an Elvis act will also entertain the crowds, along with Stourbridge DJ Paul Foster.

Poet

Event compere is former Birmingham Poet Laureate Giovanni 'Spox' Exposito.

Band co-ordinator Mark Moran said: "This is the best-ever Romstock line up and there is truly something for everyone."

Romstock was originally launched in 2012. Organiser Dave Powell said: "Last year was our best yet with some 1,500 people attending. We are hoping that this year will surpass last and we have a few surprises planned."

It takes place on the village playing field, off St Kenelm's Road, with the first band on stage at 12.15pm. The event ends around 8pm. Advance tickets are £7 adults (£10 on the day) and £2.50 for children. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is £15. Tickets can be bought from The Spar in Romsley. All profits go to projects in the parish.

RESCUE

Attempted murder charge after blaze

HERO neighbours saved a woman and her daughter from a burning house in Cradley after hearing cries for help.

Jodie Gair, aged 26, was in the property alongside her six-year-old daughter when the blaze broke out in Chapelhouse Lane in the early hours of June 3.

Daniel Watkins, 34, of Smiths Close, Alcester, has appeared before Dudley Magistrates charged with two counts of attempted murder in connection with the fire. He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 4.

COMMUNITY

Population rising by 1,000 per year

THE population of Dudley is set to increase by more than 20,000 over the next two decades - a rise of nearly 1,000 people per year.

New figures show the population will rise by 6.6 per cent to 338,000 by 2039. But that increase prediction is the lowest in the West Midlands.

Neighbouring Sandwell is set to see its population rocket by more than 50,000 over the next two decades, piling pressure on homes, schools and hospitals.

CAMPAIGN

FA bosses criticised by Astle's daughter

BAGGIES legend Jeff Astle's daughter has criticised the Football Association over delays into research on head injuries.

Dawn Astle was promised that answers she gave to the FA in 2014 would be passed on to football's global governing body, Fifa.

But last month the FA said the responses would be sent to Fifa 'imminently' - more than a year after she was initially promised.

FA chairman Greg Dyke has responded to Ms Astle with an apology after it emerged that four England World Cup winners are suffering from memory problems.

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REMEMBERING THE GREATEST



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CONTACT US	

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
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E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
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MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
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Teen mother shook her baby, then lied

A TEENAGE mother who shook her baby so hard he had two bleeds on the brain has been spared prison. The 19-year-old 'snapped' when the three-month-old boy did not take an early morning feed, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"She asserts that he was not taking to his food well, was scratchy, irritable and not responding – so she took hold of him under the armpit area and shook him with some force," explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

The young Black Country woman – who is now 21 and cannot be named for legal reasons – was 'riven with guilt' but went back to bed and did not wake for five hours. The child was downstairs with

her then boyfriend and did not appear unwell but became limp and unresponsive afterwards.

The child was taken to hospital where the mother lied to doctors about what had happened. Initially she blamed her boyfriend and a two-year-old cousin for the injury, revealed Mr Spratt. She did not admit the truth until three months later.

Scans revealed the baby had two bleeds on the brain and also some bleeding behind the eyes. Experts agreed these were the result of shaking. There were no other injuries. The boy had three small fists while in hospital after the January 7, 2014, incident but none since.

The boy is now in care with the mother, who

had no previous convictions, allowed monthly supervised access. Her former boyfriend is serving a prison sentence after stabbing her.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "She was a very young mother effectively bringing up the baby as a single parent because her partner at the time was of little or no support. It was a difficult, abusive relationship. In the early morning she snapped after becoming frustrated and harmed a child to whom she was devoted. As a result of her wrongdoing she has lost him."

The mother admitted ill treating a child. She was given an 18 month jail term suspended under supervision for two years.

Sadistic killer inflicted 85 injuries on victim

A SADISTIC murderer has been locked up for at least 18 years after deliberately making his victim suffer by inflicting 85 injuries.

Drunken Daniel Jones attacked Paul Tompkins – a vulnerable former mental health patient – with his fists, feet and weapons.

The 34-year-old used a knife, scissors, table fork, even a stereo system and pieces of a table to inflict wounds to the head, face and chest of the 59-year-old, who was murdered in his Stourbridge home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Judge James Burbidge QC told Jones: "This was a prolonged attack of exceptional brutality causing pain and suffering. You left him with many injuries that caused his death.

"You were drinking together and after some hours something caused you to turn against him. What that spark was we will never know because he is dead and you now say you cannot recall the cause."

In the onslaught against Mr Tompkins, who lived alone in a ground floor flat in Forge Road, Wollaston, every rib bar one on the left side of his body was fractured.

Throttle

The victim's neck showed signs of an attempt to throttle him with a length of cable, while defence injuries to his arms showed how he struggled to fend off the blows.

On New Year's Day a couple in the flat above the home of Mr Tompkins heard Jones shout: 'Where is it? If you don't give it to me I will kill you'. There were crashing and banging sounds.

Before Jones left his victim dead or dying, he reached across the body to unplug and steal a new flat screen TV. Jones sold the TV for £30 but was arrested the same day following a call to police from a man to whom the murderer had confessed.

Judge Burbidge said: "It was as callous an act as there might be. He was dying and you took what appears to be the only valuable possession he had."

Mr Michael Burrows, defending, said Jones was "horrified and ashamed" by what he did, adding: "He was plainly affected by drink and has no clear recollection."

Hard work starts now theatre saved



Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Sam Perks, Gordon Downing, Ivor Robinson and Garry Sawers (Black Country Gaz)

THE hard work has now started for campaigners handed the lease for Dudley Hippodrome.

The priority for the campaign group, who have taken over the Castle Hill landmark, is to tackle asbestos inside the former theatre and bingo hall.

Dudley Council handed the keys to the building over to campaigners who plan to rejuvenate the site.

It was revealed last week that a group fighting to save the iconic venue had been given a five-year

lease by Dudley Council to reopen it. That was cause for celebration as the keys to the building were handed to Black Country Hippodrome Ltd.

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "It's certainly a big move forward but obviously there are still one or two hurdles.

"The first major problem is going to be dealing with all the asbestos and the first of our fundraising will go towards doing that.

"We would love money to come forward from anywhere, now we're going to take control of the building.

Once we've got the asbestos to a safe level then we'll need to get someone in to give us a full assessment of the building from an expert point of view.

"That will give us more of an idea of the fundraising required."

Council chiefs had plans to demolish the building but these have now been shelved.

Train delays after lorry is wedged under bridge

RAIL services were delayed after a lorry got stuck under a bridge in the Black Country.

The HGV became lodged under the bridge next to Sandwell and Dudley station in Bromford Road, Oldbury just before 6pm last Tuesday.

A Network Rail spokesman said no services were able to run over the bridge until it was inspected for safety purposes – but it was reopened after about 10 minutes.

The road was blocked southbound between Cornwallis Road and Fountain Lane, affecting traffic heading into Oldbury. Motorists were urged to find alternate routes to avoid becoming snarled up in the queues. The street wasn't fully reopened until around 8.30pm.

Oldbury ward councillor Suzanne Hartwell said: "As long as there were no serious injuries and the driver was okay – apart from being a bit shocked – that's what really matters.

"You can't really help the delays on the trains and roads as they needed to make sure it was safe for everyone before moving the lorry."

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "A lorry struck a bridge near Sandwell and Dudley station on Tuesday at around 6pm.

"After an inspection the railway reopened around 10 minutes later when services returned to normal."

Sandwell and Dudley station recorded the biggest increase in users of all stations across the Black Country last year.

Labour club site sells for £165k

THE former Cradley Heath Labour Club is under new ownership after being bought for a six-figure sum.

The Graingers Lane venue shut suddenly last year after the committee in charge revealed they could no longer afford to keep it running.

It sold for £165,000 at a recent auction at Aston Villa Football Club. The new owners have not been revealed although property developers had expressed an interest in buying the club when it was put on the market.

The club was extremely popular during the 1980s and 1990s and would regularly draw in large crowds. Live bands and other entertainment were also a feature. It closed suddenly last August having been a fixture in the town for almost a century.

Plans lodged for amusement arcade

A NEW amusement arcade could be opening in a former cafe in Halesowen town centre.

Plans to open the amusement arcade on the site of a former cafe on the Queensway have been lodged with Dudley planning chiefs.

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Dismay as retail giant BHS set to disappear

SHOPPERS came to pay their last respects to BHS after it was announced that all the group's stores are closing with blame firmly being laid with former owner Sir Phillip Green.

It was confirmed last week that the High Street giant is to disappear with 11,000 job losses nationwide.

The company has been a fixture across the West Midlands with major stores in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Merry Hill, Telford and Birmingham.

Former owner billionaire Sir Phillip Green has been criticised for paying a £400 million dividend to his family from the business and for his management of the pension scheme. He will face questions from MPs.

Councillor David Sparks, of Dudley Council, said: "BHS is one of the anchor stores in the Merry Hill shopping development so I would expect another major retailer will step in to take over that store. The collapse of BHS has to be investigated at the highest level."

In Wolverhampton, shoppers called the announcement 'a real shame'. Tom Lennon, a 59-year-old self-employed contractor from Brewod, pointed the finger of blame at Sir Phillip: "He has shown himself to be the unacceptable face of capitalism. The hundreds of millions he took out of the company could have been put back into revamping stores. Our high street is disappearing."

Debbie Addington, 57, from Coseley, said: "It is like what happened with Woolworths. You start to think about what we are left with."

Opportunity for DIY innovation

INVENTORS in Dudley have been urged to share their innovative construction or DIY product ideas as part of a new contest.

Successful winners in the Travis Perkins Innovation Awards could be offered up to £10,000 of funding or a product trial at the FTSE100 distributor's network of Travis Perkins branches.

The timber and builders merchant has a base in Pear Tree Lane. Rob Searl, branch manager at Travis Perkins Dudley, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for absolutely anyone to develop a new business and could even see their product on the shelves of Travis Perkins branches."

For further information or to enter visit www.tpia.co.uk website.

Delays warning as pipes replaced

MOTORISTS can expect delays as roadworks are being carried out during work to replace gas pipes by National Grid along Corngreaves Road and Graingers Lane in Cradley Heath until June 10.

When The Greatest came to Dudley



Muhammad Ali in Dudley in 1983

THE 'world' is invited to the funeral of Muhammad Ali – as boxing figures across the Black Country paid tribute to the 'The Greatest'.

A huge procession and funeral will be held in his home town of Louisville, Kentucky, tomorrow (Friday) to 'allow anyone that is there from the world to say goodbye', his family says.

Tributes have flooded in from around the world, including a eulogy from President Obama – and there have also been memories of his visits to the Black Country.

Ali first came to the region in 1979

and returned again in 1983, opening a car parts shop in Dudley, giving a speech at a Wolverhampton hotel and then visiting a fan's house in Oxley – only to find he was on holiday!

Ali Fever swept through the region with crowds following him wherever he went, including a ribbon-cutting at Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley and a visit to the Sheraton near Chapel Ash in Wolverhampton. Those who bore witness to the scenes and even got to speak to the great man described him as the playful, charismatic, charming, witty, humble and unpredictable.

Businessman Terry Carvin from Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley said the boxer's visit attracted 2,000 fans. The 69-year-old said: "He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. He must have been there a good four hours."

Pat Smith, aged 60, of Oxley, recalls Ali visiting her auntie's home nearby. Her father, Lesley Ward, had become a close friend of Ali and been to several of his fights. But on the day he visited, Les was in Australia on holiday – so had to speak with his hero over the phone instead.

● Special times – page 6

Ho! Ho! No! Christmas lights put under threat

TRADERS fear Halesowen will not have Christmas lights this year after cash-strapped Dudley Council cut the budget by half.

The authority says it is facing the 'biggest cuts in local government history' and cannot allocate the required funds as in previous years.

Dudley Council has halved the Christmas lights budget from £8,000 which businessman have called 'a blow'.

The council set aside the money for the town's traders each year who then organise the festive decorations.

Halesowen traders are to hold discussions with the council over the cuts but are sceptical of negotiating a better deal.

Wayne Edwards, Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Commerce, said: "The cuts are a blow. We are debating now whether we can put the lights on due to the cuts.

"We have one of the biggest shows of Christmas lights each year which Dudley Council recognises.

"Unless there is a change in the funding Halesowen won't have any Christmas lights this year. But that will depend on the outcome of the meeting. It is a hard time at the moment for businesses."

Funding

Traders are set to meet up and discuss how they can source the funding alternatively. Funds are also donated from community forums in Dudley, which totals around £5,000, as well as business in Halesowen, which totals between £6,000 to £7,000.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "These are unprecedented times for the council with significantly reduced funding to not only deliver events across the borough but also key services to our most vulnerable children and the elderly.

"We are sympathetic to the traders' concerns and would not be making any cut unless we had had the biggest cuts in local government history.

"Like all local authorities, we are simply not in a position to continue subsidising events to the levels of previous years.

"However, this year we will still be giving the four main town centres £4,000 towards putting on a Christmas event which includes security, staging, first aid, staffing, trees and lights and much more."



Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif is calling on people to get new flags to replace tatty Black Country banners like the one held by James Stevens

Call to fly fresh new flag with real pride

BLACK Country folk have been urged to 'take down their tatty flags' ahead of this year's Black Country Festival with a limited number of free flags up for grabs.

The festival is now in its third year and organisers said many of the flags hanging from shops, homes and other buildings have seen better days

The Black Country flags have been a massive success and have been spotted being waved at such high-profile events as the at Glastonbury Festival and at the football World Cup in Brazil.

This year's month-long festival kicks off in July with events across the borough, culminating in Black Country Day on July 14 and activities in Dudley town centre on July 16.

Organisers are urging people to snap up new flags to make sure this year's festival kicks off in style. Flags are available from the Black Country T Shirts shop in Dudley town centre, who will donate profits from sales to the festival. Call Black Country T Shirts, Castle Street, on (01384) 639 392 or email admin@blackcountrytshirts.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free Euro football matches at cinema

FOOTBALL fans can enjoy all the home nations' games from this summer's European Championships in France on the big screen at Dudley's Showcase Cinema.

Showcase will be screening all British sides in action live and for free this summer, including England's opening game against Russia on Saturday evening. The Castlegate venue has high definition screens and surround sound. Tickets are available from the box office on a first come first served basis. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Teen physicist has stars in his eyes

A TALENTED teenager has completed a free six-month course in physics and now hopes to be the first from his family to go to university.

Kristopher-Ryan Hinds, aged 17, a Year 12 student at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, received the free weekly tuition from entrepreneur Rob Laker, including how to use a high-specification telescope, through education charity The Access Project.

Mr Laker founded his data consultancy GEL Data Solutions in 2007 after studying astrophysics at University College London.

Canal trust holds real ale festival

MORE than 40 beers will feature at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's third annual real ale festival this month.

It will be held at the trust's site off Birmingham New Road from June 23-26, from 5-11pm Thursday, 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 3pm on Sunday. Entry free for trust and Campaign for Real Ale members.

For non-members entry is £2.50. A recruitment fair tomorrow (Friday) to find more trust volunteers.

Extra patrols to deal with off-road bikers

POLICE are stepping up patrols following reports of off-road bikers causing a nuisance in Dudley.

Complaints have been made about youths riding the bikes on roads and grassland on the Russells Hall estate.

Police said officers would be sent out to try to tackle the problem.

Anyone caught causing a nuisance has been warned their bikes could be seized and that they could end up in court if riding without a licence or insurance.

Car wash bid lodged

A CAR wash could be opened beside a road in Halesowen.

The facility would be built next to Teamworks Karting, off Dudley Road, if plans are approved.

It would be on an existing yard area which is paved, according to proposals submitted by Michael Chapman.

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OUR changing language. Some gay activists involved in this month's Pride march in London are opposed to contingents from the armed forces taking part on the grounds that it appears to support the military and arms industry. Or as Symon Hill, coordinator of the pacifist Peace Pledge Union, puts it: "I urge the organisers of Pride to wake up and realise that they are helping the armed forces and BAE Systems to pinkwash their image." Pinkwash. I love it.

ONLY an old harrumpher would point out that, if our armed forces hadn't won the Second World War, Britain today would be part of the Reich and the only march for gays would be the one leading to the gas chambers.

WHICH leads on to the following pertinent quote. It has been variously attributed to Kipling, Churchill and George Orwell and the words are sometimes slightly changed.



But it bears repeating and you'll get the gist of it: "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." You may not approve of militarism. You may be offended by the sight of soldiers marching. But never kid yourself that you would enjoy the life and liberties you have today without those rough men.

SINCLAIR McKay, author of a new book on the wartime codebreakers at Bletchley Park, claims that some locals, perplexed by the oddballs working at Bletchley, came to the conclusion that the place was a government-run psychiatric hospital. I can believe that. It was my privilege on two occasions to interview Professor Harry Hinsley, one of the most remarkable Brits of the 20th century. The son of a Walsall coal merchant, he went to Cambridge and led Bletchley's team who broke German naval codes. Hinsley recalled one expert whose daily routine was to take his after-dinner tea each evening while strolling by the park's lake. When he finished his tea, he would toss the cup and saucer into the lake. Some were merely eccentric but he was literally crack-pot.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Daughter of football legend criticises the FA

THE daughter of Albion legend Jeff Astle says the way the Football Association has dragged their heels over research into head injuries is 'inexcusable'.

Nearly two years after Dawn Astle met FA representatives, the 48-year-old who lost her father to the consequences of heading footballs was this week due to meet Dr Charlotte Chaury, the FA's new head of performance medicine.

By Matt Wilson

Ms Astle is hoping to finally get answers to the questions she gave to the FA in 2014 which they promised to pass on to football's global governing body Fifa. But she's not optimistic after she received an FA response saying her questions would be sent to Fifa 'imminently', more than a year after she was told they would forward the request for an independent study.

Indefensible

"We're nearly two years on from meeting the FA in August 2014, and we're no further on in regards to the research," said Ms Astle. "I thought that was inexcusable and indefensible. The lack of respect that showed to all those players and families who have watched their loved ones stripped of all human nature was beyond words. I'm very frustrated, very tired, and sick of these empty gestures and excuses."

FA chairman Greg Dyke responded to Ms Astle this year with an apology after

it emerged that four of the eight surviving players of England's 1966 World Cup winning team are suffering memory problems.

The family have been campaigning for research into head injuries in football since Jeff Astle's death was judged to be as a result of heading heavy footballs.

"I know the guidelines have been put in for head injuries but that's not what this is about, it's about long-term research," she said.

"Dad's inquest was 14 years ago, the coroner said his job had killed him, we didn't say it. Fourteen years, and none of those questions have been answered, it's shocking."

A spokesperson for the FA highlighted their guidelines for head injuries released in November 2015. The spokesperson explained the decision to defer to Fifa by saying: "If the FA acts alone the findings are less powerful and more likely to result in vague conclusions."

Noah's backing Big Bandage



Three-year-old Noah Dixey is helping the children's hospital

A BRAVE young patient got all wrapped up and launch Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity's fourth annual summer fundraiser - The Big Bandage.

Three-year-old Noah Dixey, who has a condition called Alagille Syndrome - a rare genetic disorder that affects his liver, heart, kidneys and skin - dressed up in bandages to encourage others to join in on Friday, July 8 and make a donation.

Following his diagnosis at six-months-old, Noah has had five operations. He has to visit the children's hospital every six weeks and takes 16 different types of medication daily.

Supporters can choose which ward, service or department their money goes to, meaning they'll be helping to shape the future of Birmingham Children's Hospital and make a real difference.

Noah's mother Gemma said: "As a family, we're delighted to be able to give something back and we know first-hand exactly how life-changing fundraising can be."

To get involved, visit www.bch.org.uk/bigbandage or text BANDAGE to 70099 to donate £2.

Congestion costs £2bn a year in West Mids

CONGESTION costs the West Midlands £2 billion a year, a new report has claimed.

More delivery vans on the road because of online shopping and Uber cabs have been blamed for exacerbating the problem by the Greener Journeys report.

Centro is set to spend £150 million on buses in the region over the next five years providing cleaner buses, smartcard tickets and road changes to speed up journeys and make buses more reliable.

But transport chiefs have warned congestion is hitting the bus sector hard with average speed in the busiest cities dropping to less than 10mph.

Councillor John McNicholas, chairman of the Integrated Transport Authority's Transport Delivery Committee, which oversees Centro, said: "Congestion stifles economic growth, pollutes our air and generally lowers the quality of life for the people of the West Midlands."

"That's why we are working hard to deliver an attractive and fully integrated transport network that makes it easier than ever for people to leave their cars at home and travel in a greener way."

Claire Haigh, chief executive of Greener Journeys, added: "A fully-loaded double decker bus can take 75 cars off the road."



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Members of the public are invited to learn more about our year by attending Dudley CCG's

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: **Thursday 7th July 2016**

Venue: **Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3DH**

Time: **5.30pm-6.30pm**

At the event, Dudley CCG's Annual Report for the year 2015/16 will be available, and there will be a series of short presentations including a focus on developments during the year, a financial review and an overview of current and future challenges and opportunities.

Refreshments will also be provided from **5.00pm** onwards so booking is essential!

Please confirm your attendance by Monday 4th July 2016 to Lindsey Harding by emailing lindsey.harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk or calling **01384 321677**. If you would like to present any questions to our Board, please submit them to Lindsey in advance.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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Fans jailed over league cup Brum teams' derby clash

TWO football fans from the Black Country have been jailed with five others over disorder which broke out at last year's Aston Villa and Birmingham City derby clash.

The two clubs met in the League Cup in September at Villa Park in a match classified by police as high risk. Around 400 officers were drafted in on September 22 to keep the peace. But before the match a 200-strong group of Blues fans tried to break through a police cordon to reach rival supporters.

Unattended oven caused blaze at flat

A WOMAN was treated for smoke inhalation after a fire broke out in the kitchen of a high rise flat.

Fire crews attended the blaze at Harry Price House, Hartlebury Road, in Oldbury, on Saturday night, following several 999 calls. Passers-by had reported smoke billowing from the seventh-storey property. The fire was caused after an oven had been left on unattended. Two crews from Oldbury Fire Station and one from Haden Cross attended around 6pm. No injuries were reported.

Watch Commander Matt Payne from Oldbury said: "The fire was caused after an oven had been left on with a grill pan inside. Fortunately the smoke alarms were working and alerted the family to the fire. One woman was treated for smoke inhalation. The kitchen was quite gutted and the family will have to be rehomed."

Birmingham Crown Court heard how police were subjected to abuse and spitting while missiles between the two sets of supporters rained down on them.

Following a police appeal six handed themselves into police and pleaded guilty to affray.

Aston Villa fan Harry Steward, aged 30, of Daw End Lane, Walsall, also admitted affray after being seen by police throwing a coin at City fans after Villa's 1-0 victory. He was jailed for eight months.

Others jailed for eight months were: Daren Naven, 46, of Queslett Road, Great Barr, Arron Richards, 24, of Ridgewood, Shard End, Birmingham, Joshua Moore, of Warstoll Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham and Sean Timlin, 24, of Church Road, Yardley, Birmingham. Jack Beddows, 20, of Kings Heath High Street, Birmingham, was sent to a Youth Offenders Institute for six months.

Dean Powell, aged 49, the oldest of the group and of Rickyard Piece, Quinton, received nine months because he entered a guilty plea at a later stage in proceedings.

Jailing the men Judge Patrick Thomas QC told them: "The incident we've seen reflects the behaviour of a mob fuelled by drink."

Bully calls for backing on charity walk



From left Suresh Bawa (Founding Trustee) from Wightwick, Freya Felton, 11, from Willenhall, Dicky Dodd and Steve Bull

WOLVES legend Steve Bull has urged people from the Black Country and beyond to take part in an annual fund-raising walk. Wolverhampton-based charity Promise Dreams kick-started their third and annual event Walk for Dreams.

Taking part on October 16, it will see walkers, family and friends descend upon the grounds of Himley Hall in Dudley in their thousands to set off on a 10-mile walk to Wolver-

hampton Racecourse. The initiative was officially launched at the finish line at the racecourse by patron Steve Bull as well as the charities founding trustee Suresh Bawa and Signal Radio's Dicky Dodd.

Speaking about the event, Bull said: "The event is unbelievable. It means a lot to me because I know where the money is going to. It's going to some really poorly children and there families. I've been a patron of

Promise Dreams since day one - I've taken the charity to my heart and love it to bits."

The walkers will be given a warm up to ensure they're ready for the off and a full-on party atmosphere awaits them at the Wolverhampton Racecourse with music, refreshments and, most importantly, somewhere to rest their feet. To sign up or find out more about signing up, or helping as a steward visit www.walkfordreams.co.uk

Court closure plan remains unresolved

A PLAN which would leave Sandwell as the only Black Country borough without a magistrates' court is set to rumble on until at least November.

The Government had planned to save about £407,000 a year by closing Sandwell Magistrates' Court between June and September.

But now the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) say the court is likely to remain open for cases until at least November. No staff will lose their jobs. They will be moved to Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley Magistrates' Courts once Sandwell's is finally axed.

It is part of a national plan to shut 86 around the country.

Labour Party deputy leader and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has said closing the court was 'an absolute disgrace', which would 'deny victims of crime and their families access to justice'.

An HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) spokeswoman said: "The decision to close a court is never taken lightly, but maintaining underused and dilapidated court buildings is simply unsustainable and costs the taxpayer £500 million a year. "Access to justice is not just about proximity to a court and we are investing over £700 million to reform and digitise our courts and tribunal services to deliver swifter and more certain justice."

Council's website is best among IT crowd

SANDWELL Council's website has been voted best metropolitan council website in the country.

It achieved a top rating in the Better Connected survey run by the Society of IT Managers. Rated best of the UK's 36 metropolitan districts, the website is among only 44 of 416 in the country to get four stars. Leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said the council led the way in digital innovation.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Capital! At last I am classed as a VIP

IT'S a funny old world. Every week I write a few words here, in the hope it will amuse and entertain some of you, or maybe make you think.

Of course, I know, it won't actually change anything, and certainly not influence your opinion on any subject.

Or at least I hope it won't, I would really hate that. Because while I might like airing my opinions, I really know that it matters very little what I think about these things, I am really not important.

Which is strange, because I recently returned from holiday to receive a glossy card telling me that is exactly what I am. Important that is.

The card was sent to me by a well-known local car dealer, informing me that I had been invited to its "forthcoming VIP Showroom Event" – as opposed to a "previous VIP Showroom Event", which would presumably have involved some kind of time-travel.

And why do the words "showroom" and "event" need capital letters?

It is the bane of our trade how some people think that a few strategically but incorrectly placed block letters can somehow make something seem more important.

It doesn't. It just makes the writer look illiterate.

Anyway, if I telephone the showroom's VIP booking desk, yes, they've got one of those as well, I will get a VIP pass which will allow me into the VIP Showroom Event. According to the literature, "this will be no ordinary event", and VIP passes are strictly limited.

And what exactly does it involve? Well having read the card in great detail, I have come to the conclusion that if I decide to take up the offer, I will get the opportunity to buy a car.

Never felt so important in my life.

□ □ □

MIND you, it's a strange world, selling cars. I remember test driving a car back in 2003, going away to think about it and returning a short while later to do the deal. Straight away, I was offered another test drive, and despite my protestations that this was not necessary, I was handed the keys and ushered into the driver's seat.

It was only when I was invited into the back office to sort on the minutiae that I spotted the whiteboard detailing the big fat commission they got for every test drive.

□ □ □

THERE has been a lot of bad press about the mindless violence, nudity and general debauchery in the BBC's new costume drama Versailles. And I am horrified. I only went and missed it, didn't I?



Muhammad Ali seen during his visit to the West Midlands



Ali, in Dudley, with Buyrite Autoparts boss Terry Carvin, left



Boxing promoter, Ron Gray, from Cannock with Ali in the 1970s

Special times spent with ‘the Greatest’

CARL JACKSON talks to West Midlanders lucky enough to have met Muhammad Ali and hear how he affected their lives

HE hailed himself as ‘The Greatest’ who ‘shook up the world’. And those from the West Midlands who had the privilege to meet Muhammad Ali throughout his remarkable life have endorsed the claims made by the great man, who died last Friday.

Boxing promoter Ron Gray, from Cannock, got closer than most. In his own fighting days he featured on the undercard on both occasions Ali fought Henry Cooper – at Wembley in 1963 and in 1966 at Highbury.

He also met him numerous times afterwards throughout his promoting career.

Loveable

Mr Gray said: “When you ask people who the two most popular names are in the whole world they say Muhammad Ali and Nelson Mandela. They are both mentioned in the same breath.

“I met him on several occasions. He was just a lovely, lovely man. Absolutely different to the way he was when he came out with his outbursts. He was a quiet person actually but so loveable with the press. You would ask him a question and get a half-an-hour answer. He was absolutely brilliant and marvellous for boxing. It is a terrible shame.”

And yet Ron's late brother Billy got to share a ring with the man who floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. In 1966 he was drafted in to spar with Ali as he prepared to fight Brian London.

Paying tribute to his sibling after he lost his battle to cancer last year, Ron said at the time: “There seemed to be a link between our family and Ali. He's competed over here three times and I boxed on two of those bills, while Billy



Cassius Clay, sparring with Walsall's Billy Gray in 1966 before he fought Brian London

sparred with him for his fight on the other.

“He got the call to go down to the Thomas A Becket gym in London and spend two days with Ali, before he fought Brian London. The strange thing was I spent a month up in Blackpool sparring with Brian at the time. I joked with Billy that I was softening him up for Ali.”

In 1979 Ali made his first visit to the Midlands. During which time he was presented a commemorative belt in Birmingham, which was later bought by advertising guru Trevor Beattie, once of Wolverhampton.

But photobombing the handover was none other than Sir Lenny Henry who paid tribute to Ali calling him a ‘titan’ of boxing.

Tony Wilson, 55 and from Wolverhampton, was another to meet the man formerly known as Cassius Clay when he came to England.

Ali returned in 1983 stopping by at Wolverhampton's The Sheraton on Raglan Street

among other fan-packed destinations in Birmingham, Dudley and Coventry.

Mr Wilson, who was an amateur boxing champion at the time and now teaches at Arena Gym in Willenhall, said: “I was very sad to hear he passed away. I met him in Handsworth. He stopped and asked who we were and started shadow boxing with us in the street. It was one of the highlights of my life. I went to bed that night and couldn't stop dreaming about it. He was very humble for what he achieved. If I can get a fighter with just a quarter of his skill I would consider myself blessed.”

Businessman Terry Carvin was able to get Ali to open his new firm Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley during the 1983 visit.

Having met the boxer in America he agreed to pay him £3,000 to cut the ribbon at the unveiling while more than 2,000 screaming fans

packed Hall Street outside. The 69-year-old from Kingswinford, said: “You could see the early signs of his problems were there. I could see that. But he was still all there and messing around sparring with people doing that sort of thing. He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. He must have been there a good four hours. A gypsy came in and forecast he was going to be shot. We've got a video of him saying ‘they tried to get me but nobody's got me yet’.”

Former boxer, Scott Murray, owner of Bar Sport in Cannock, has hosted some of boxing's biggest ever names for after-dinner speeches at the venue's Premier Suite lounge including the likes of Sugar Ray Leonard and Evander Holyfield.

While Ali has never been there himself four of his opponents Henry Cooper, Earnie Shavers, George Chuvalo and Ken Norton are among a stellar list to have entertained audiences in Cannock.

Mr Murray said: “They were all in awe of him. He was just an inspiring character. All the guys we have hosted who met him have said the same. A lot of them said he's the reason they took up boxing. He was Sugar Ray Leonard's hero. It's tremendous the amount of influence he has. I never met him. I do have a load of his memorabilia though. It is very sad. He was the greatest boxer that ever lived I don't think we'll see anyone greater.”

Ali, who was world heavyweight champion a record three times, was equally if not more famous for his charm, wit, charisma, outrageous rhymes and outspoken views in projecting the Nation of Islam's ideology.

But his speed and flare in the ring defying the traditional attributes of a typical heavyweight inspired generations of boxers, including those born well after he had hung up his gloves only to commence one of his biggest and most enduring battles – with Parkinson's disease.

Tanny Khan, manager at Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton, said he still uses videos of Ali to train upcoming fighters.

He said: “We have got pictures of him all over the place. Whenever we go on trips we have his DVDs on and just go through with the boxers how he used to fight. He was a big inspiration.. There will never be another Muhammed Ali.”

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The way EU works is not democratic

WITH reference to the so-called Brexit debate I believe we are being subjected to a climate of fear and foreboding, mostly based on the fear of the unknown.

Financial predictions are based on anything but fact and embraced by so-called experts who struggle to produce accurate forecasts month on month.

They speak all too freely about the catastrophic effect that leaving the EU could have on Britain's trade, but seem to make no reference to the economic consequences of tit-for-tat tariffs/sanctions being imposed on goods destined

for the UK from Germany, France and the rest of the EU. Do they seriously believe that the French and Germans in particular would be happy with that?

If people are dissatisfied with Britain's present relationship with the EU, they should ask themselves whether they think it will get any better if Britain stays in. If they do not believe it will improve, this is their one and only opportunity to do something about it.

The irony is that Britain fought in world wars to preserve its right to live in a democratic society, but the way the EU works, it is anything but democratic.

Politicians who encourage us to stay in the EU should be ashamed for not giving credit to the hard working people of our country who have the will, the skills and the desire to take us all forward under our own steam.

It is time for us to put on one side any petty personal gains we may have and think seriously about the future of our country for the benefit of our children, and grandchildren, because they are the ones who it will affect most if we get this wrong.

G OAKLEY
Stourbridge

Will crime boss keep promises?

DAVID Jamieson needs to be congratulated on winning a second term of office as the Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands'. So we will wait with bated breath to see if his pre-election promises materialise.

If you remember, Mr Jamieson promised to increase police recruitment from 450 to 1,000 by 2017 (next year) along with all the latest IT equipment.

This pledge was made despite the austerity cuts that have been going on in the police forces up and down the country. These have led to 7,000 police being made redundant along with 5,000 PCSOs.

This is the Police & Crime Commissioner who agreed to close all of the police stations in the Midlands – and some have now closed with others to shut in the near future.

So Mr Jamieson, we are waiting for your promises.
B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

One big exercise in social engineering

FOR too long we have been preached at by successive governments that this country needs foreign workers to do the jobs we are too lazy, greedy or not qualified enough to do.

Agriculture in this country would, we are told, no longer function without foreign labour. At the same time, the fire service, which does not suffer this lack of home grown labour, is too white and too male and needs more diversity.

Have successive governments been democratically elected to protect our country, culture and welfare, for the benefit of future generations or have they been elected to indulge themselves in social engineering?

It's true that in the history of these islands we have absorbed many people from other cultures who have integrated into our society and brought us benefits, but this happened slowly, giving our indigenous people time to assimilate and enabling migrants to fit into our way of life.

What has happened over the last 40 years, during our time in the Common Market and EU appears to be a dangerous exercise in social engineering by bureaucratic know-it-alls. If so, the world is in danger of becoming one big homogenised, politically correct, conglomeration of people.

B CROFT
Wall Heath

Relocation disaster for workforce

IT concerns me that manufacturing is rarely mentioned with reference to Brexit.

In pre-EU days it was not viable for small manufacturers to export to Europe, due to large amounts of paperwork and heavy tariffs on the goods involved.

Since the emergence of the European Union it is possible to export to them using a single invoice. It may be possible as 'outers' suggest to still trade with Europe. However their terms of trade are already established.

The choice is to pay large sums of money and accept free movement of EU nationals across their borders or pay a tariff of at least 11 per cent.

As many companies in the UK are foreign owned, a tariff on their goods would possibly result in their relocation to Europe itself. This of course would prove disastrous for the UK workforce.

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Spray paint park warnings over menace of dog mess

A NEW scheme aimed at tackling dog fouling has been launched across Dudley following a successful pilot scheme at parks in Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Dudley Council will be spray painting warning messages in parks with the biggest problems with dog mess.

The council has launched an initiative which will see messages stencilled with non-permanent paint on paths telling people to pick up after their pets. The type of paint used will wash away over time.

Gold medal triumph at Chelsea show

NURSERY owner John Massey struck gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

It is the first time the hepaticas have been shown as a single exhibit at the famous show. The spring-flowing plants were grown by Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford.

The 67-year-old nursery owner, who has more than 50 RHS gold medals to his name, said: "I've always dreamed of exhibiting hepaticas at Chelsea. I really wanted to show everyone the charm, beauty and diversity of their flowers and foliage."

Ashwood Nurseries general manager Karina Gilbert said: "Hardly anyone grows hepaticas anymore because it takes three years for them to flower. When John said he was going to grow them, we all looked at each other and thought 'no way.' For Chelsea, John held them back in a freezer and then brought them out for a while and then put them back in cold storage. It's been a real experiment but one that's paid off."

The scheme will target parks and open spaces in a bid to encourage more people to clean up after their pooches.

Dog fouling can lead to fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts.

Parks in Wall Heath and Kingswinford parks have been used to pilot the scheme and more sites are due to be added to the programme to target dog fouling hot spots.

The sign sees the image of a dog with a lead, along with the caption 'Clean It Up!'

Environment services boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people clean up after their pets. People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs. We would rather people cleaned up after their dogs than us having to prosecute them."

"The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements. They are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

Councillor Patrick Harley, Leader of the Dudley Conservative Group, said: "I am supportive of the scheme but we need to make sure we place the signs in the right area."

Dog fouling can be reported to Dudley Council by calling 0300 5552345 or email dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

Two-year wait for eyesore wall repair



Robert Mooney's garden backs onto a wall that fell into Stacey Close around two years ago and remains as rubble

A 12ft wall that collapsed two years ago has still not been rebuilt by council bosses – with it remaining an eyesore pile of bricks and rubble.

The ruined wall which backs onto Robert Mooney's garden in Clyde Street, Old Hill, fell into Stacey Close in June 2014.

Orange barriers have remained in place since the collapse but Mr Mooney claims that, despite several visits from council officers, still nothing has been done.

Mr Mooney, who has lived in the

street for 15 years, said it had become a 'hazard' and that he and neighbours wanted it cleaned up.

The council says the situation is complicated by land ownership issues. Mr Mooney, 53, said: "It collapsed into the garden of the first house in Stacey Close and the rest looks like it is about to fall at anytime."

Quotes

"Council officers came out on several occasions and said it was structurally unsafe, then they are always

awaiting to get quotes for the cost of it to be repaired."

Councillor David Hosell, who is cabinet member for highways and environment said: "If the wall is unsafe then I would presume a council officer has looked at it and passed comment on it. If it is structurally unsafe then this is something that needs to be assessed."

Adrian Scarrott, director of Neighbourhood Services, said: "It is a complicated situation involving land ownership and an old wall. We are doing what we can to sort it out."

Appeal to raise funds goal for Edwards plaque

A FUNDRAISING drive has been launched to secure a blue plaque honouring Dudley football icon Duncan Edwards.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Councillor Dave Tyler are leading the campaign to have the plaque unveiled in memory of the Manchester United legend. Almost £600 has been raised towards the £2,000 target.

The campaigners are now calling on people to help boost the total to ensure the plaque can be installed in the Priory Park where 'Busby Babe' Edwards, who died following the Munich Air Disaster in 1958, honed his skills as a boy.

They are hopeful people from Dudley, Manchester United supporters and football fans in general will get behind the bid.

It is hoped the plaque will ready in time to be unveiled in October to coincide with what would have been the England star's 80th birthday.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "Like anyone else from Dudley, I grew up with the name Duncan Edwards ringing in my ears."

"He's a football legend so I'm working with Councillor Dave Tyler to get the blue plaque he deserves."

Donations to support the blue plaque appeal can be made at www.duncanedwardsplaque-labourclp54.nationbuilder.com

Photo firm focus on centre for 52nd shop

PHOTOGRAPHY specialist Jessops has opened its 52nd shop.

New Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, cut the ribbon to unveil the store store at intu Merry Hill.

Boss Neil Old said: "Our 12-strong intu Merry Hill team has been trained to the highest standard. When it comes to photography, we are confident that there is no other retailer that can offer our level of service."

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Campaign won on double yellow lines



Church Street in Halesowen where councillors have agreed to paint double yellow lines

DOUBLE yellow lines will be introduced in an accident-plagued road in Halesowen following a long campaign.

Council bosses have agreed to carry out the safety measure in Church Street after calls for action by concerned residents.

Several smashes and claims of speeding in the road, which is partially one way, had left people 'living in fear'. This is made worse by a tight junction leading into Nimmings Road, according to Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

Dudley traffic officers were called to the spot in March but insisted that

action could not be taken for at least a year due to the junction only scoring 22 points on its danger rating system. The criteria is 25,

But following a residents' petition, officers have now agreed to put double yellow lines on the road over the next couple of years. The scheme has been added to the work due to be carried out from next April.

Councillor Shakespeare, who represents Halesowen North, said it was a relief that action would be taken.

It means that with the petition and the fact we didn't give up we will get what we want in 2017/18," she said,

She added: "Church Street has been subject to speeding cars and several cars being smashed into. It has left people fearing for their safety, especially if they have children or are elderly."

"The road is narrow and tight and the one end has a one-way system from Long Lane and the other is two-way from Nimmings Road and that is where we have been pushing for the double yellow lines."

A one-way system was installed on Church Street in 2010. At the same time, the adjacent Green Lane has had thousands spent on safety measures.

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Goose lets loose with flying practise



A goose teaching its gosling how to use its wings in Sandwell. Picture by Steven Kendrick, from Walsall

IT was all about winging it as this little chap was taught how to take his first flight into the big-wide-world.

This cute snap taken by a Walsall photographer shows a goose teaching a gosling how to take the first leap of faith and fly. Steven Kendrick managed to capture the special moment beside the lake as the yellow-feathered baby bird was eager to take part in practice. It follows as the culling of geese in Sandwell was forced to stop following a campaign that saw a 4,000-name petition handed into the council in February. A total of 220 Canada geese were said to have been culled over the past two years in Tipton's Victoria Park and Dartmouth Park, in West Bromwich.

Lending surge helps firm

SURGING home loan figures have helped push up profits in a strong year for the Black Country's biggest building society.

It also ended with the West Brom moving into its new home in West Bromwich

The firm saw pre-tax profits rise by more than £1 million, up nine per cent to £13m in the year to the end of March.

It was boosted by gross home mortgage lending, at £673 million, up by 51 per cent on the previous year.

But chief executive Jonathan Westhoff made it clear the society was still keeping a tight grip on lending, ensuring that borrowers – particularly first time buyers – can keep up the payments. "As we have seen historically, it is no benefit to anybody to end up with a mortgage they may struggle to afford," he said. The society's approach, part of its 'back to basics' strategy, meant virtually none of its new borrowers in the last few years had struggled to meet their payments, said Mr Westhoff.

Meanwhile, the society has continued to strengthen its core finances and, despite continuing historic lows for interest rates, savings balances grew by 10 per cent to £4.4bn.

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Red Lion Street in the 1950s, where Geoff stayed at weekends with his grandparents, which is just around the corner from the Odeon and Beatties



The police and fire station in Red Lion Street in January, 1956, as mentioned by Geoff in his recollections



Geoff Leo is second from the left and in the woolly hat in this picture from about 1957. On the left is Sally Edes, and next to Geoff is John Hendley and then comes Tony Perry

Magical memories of an exciting childhood with an Italian flavour

ALTHOUGH small in numbers, the Italians of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham made a significant contribution to the region's social and economic life.

Their families arrived here from the late 19th century, when the economy in southern Italy collapsed and hundreds of thousands fled poverty.

Most of them headed for the USA, but a few came to Britain.

Prominent among those Italian Wulfrunians were the Marandolas and Leos, and Geoff Leo has written in with some of his memories of growing up in Wolverhampton.

"Dad worked in the ice cream, Percy Leo and Sons, still trading, in Thomas Street. He was the eldest son, William, or Bill to his wife, and Our Willie to his sisters. Percy was really Pasquale, a first generation immigrant from Italy who started the business before the Second World War from the front room of the family house in Graiseley

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

Street. "Grandad Leo died just before I was born, the year of the Queen's accession, 1952, and the year dad and his brother bought their first ice cream van."

"Mum, Nan and Granddad, and Uncle Pat, whose family lived for a short while in the front room, were all from Reydon, Suffolk; a village outside the seaside town of Southwold.

"Dad was too young to serve when war broke out in 1939, but later joined the Army. His flat feet meant he was unable to march, so he was transferred from the infantry to the engineers and he became a specialist in bomb disposal. With the threat of invasion gone the British beaches which had been mined to defend against a German assault, now had to be cleared. Dad began in Norfolk, then commanded a party of Prisoners of War to do the job further south. He met my mum, Edna, and they married in

1946. Mum was only 18 and my big brother, Alan, was born the following year in Hurn Crag Road, Reydon.

Moving to Wolverhampton, dad got him a job at the Star Aluminium, where he worked happily till his retirement. The best of my weekend friends was Tony Perry, who lived next door.

Tony was a little older than me and an only child who has written extensively about our times together in his excellent historical work 'Of The River People'. I recall Saturday mornings best and our trips to the children's matinee clubs at the ABC or Odeon picture houses.

The Clifton, or "fleapit", opposite the ABC didn't cater for us and the Gaumont by the library appeared too posh for us kids. Ninepence was the cost of an excellent morning's entertainment. There'd be a couple of Loony Toons cartoons, some Pearl & Dean commercials, then a cliff-hanger, maybe Flash Gordon or Zorro before the interval.

With the usherettes busy dealing with

queues of rowdy kids buying Kia Ora, Butterkist or a Jubbly, some of the more unscrupulous of the children would let their mates in via the emergency exits. The manager then invited children onto stage if it was their birthday, or if they had created something at school. Once I won third place for a piece of embroidery (I had no shame). Only three had gone up on stage and my prize was a torch.

During the main film the manager's voice came over the speaker, "Will the boy who won the torch please stop shining it on the screen!" The main event could be swashbuckling pirates, gun toting cowboys, whooping Indians or ray gun firing spacemen.

We would leave the cinema galloping and tapping our bottoms and emitting all sorts of sounds to indicate galloping hooves, machine guns or skidding tyres, but would instantly have to quieten down to enter Beatties. James Beattie's Department Store was the shining light of Wolverhampton, and was wonderful.



The Odeon, Wolverhampton – one of Geoff's favourite cinemas, which is still standing in Skinner Street

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Parks to host band concerts

PEOPLE can enjoy the sounds of an uplifting summer concert in a Quarry Bank park later this month.

Stevens Park will welcome the West Midlands Concert Band to its bandstand on Sunday from 2.30 to 5pm as part of Dudley Council's annual programme of free band concerts, this year supported by the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

The West Midlands Concert Band is a volunteer community band, based in Wolverhampton. They will perform music that people will know and love from classic movies as well as marches and classical works. People are encouraged to bring along deck-chairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy the afternoon.

Later in June, there will also be a band concert at Himley Hall and Park. BJ Concert Band will perform a foot-tapping ensemble of swing music, marches and music from film and stage on June 19 from 2.30 to 5pm.

Statue is expected to fetch £8k at auction



The statue, likely to sell for more than £5,000 at auction

IT may only stand at 54 centimetres tall but a bronze statue dating back to the 1800s and going under the hammer at an auction in the Black Country has got quite a hefty price tag.

La Danse is a bronze study by the artist Jean Baptiste Carpeaux (1827-1875), a French sculptor and painter during the Second Empire under Napoleon III.

It as made for the facade sculpture on the Opera Garnier, Paris, signed and dated 1869.

The art work, which is 54cm tall, is up for auction with an anticipated price tag ranging from £5,000 to £8,000.

Promises

It is being sold at Fieldings Auction House in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, on Saturday.

It follows the sale last month at the same auction house of another rare figure. Demetre Chiparus – ‘Tender Promises’ – a 1920s cold painted bronze, ivory figure of two kneeling harlequins. That figure sold for a whopping £20,500.

Christina memorial rock fest cancelled

A MEMORIAL concert for a Halesowen schoolgirl killed in 2013 has been cancelled but organisers promise a bigger festival will be held in her memory next year.

The concert in memory of Christina Edkins was due to take place in Birmingham last weekend but will be held in Wolverhampton in October 2017.

Christina was stabbed by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham as she was on her way to Leasowes High School. He was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act

Around 15 rock and metal bands from across the country were due to play at The Rainbow Venues in Digbeth but due to ‘unforeseen circumstances’ the event had to be cancelled. Organiser Dave Williamson said: “Next year will be a different story as Remembrance fest is being rebranded and made a whole lot bigger. It will be known as Sempternal Festival and will be held at Wolverhampton Civic.”

Charity climbers ready to again conquer Ben Nevis for charities

A THIRD annual climb of Ben Nevis has been launched to honour a Dudley peace campaigner and charity fundraiser while raising money for charity.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has assembled the biggest team yet for this year's climb in honour of Bert Bissell on August 11.

More than 20 charity fundraisers from Dudley will be led by Mr Austin to the top of Britain's highest mountain. They include the borough's new mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, deputy mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, councillors Keiran Casey and Steve Waltho, Mr Bissell's lifelong friend Astley Blake and campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner.



The team on the summit of Ben Nevis last year

The trek follows a successful climb last August, which raised £9,000 for causes in Dudley.

All funds raised by this year's climb will go to the new mayor's charities, the Friends of Alfie Johnson, which helps children with disabilities, also the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living sup-

porting local people with disabilities and Diabetes UK.

Mr Austin said: “I'm delighted that the number of local people taking part in our climb and making a donation is growing every year.

“It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community. He was a great friend of my family and I remember him well. He was a legendary figure and an inspiration to so many of us.

“I've often thought we ought to do something in his memory and climbing the mountain he conquered so many times to raise money for local charities seems a fitting tribute.

“It's an honour to be joined by Dudley's new Mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, as well as a whole team of local councillors and fundraisers.”

Birthday boys on party list

TWO men from Sedgley are finalists for Britain's unsung heroes with a chance of winning a surprise Pop Up Party.

Jeff Worsey and Leonard Smith nominated by Jeff's daughter, Caroline, are two of the 25 finalists to be showcased across social media until the end of June in a bid to win a surprise Pop Up Party.

Caroline said: “They are celebrating their 90th and 70th birthdays in June this year. As they reach these big milestones it would be great to have a joint garden party like we did 10 years ago for their 80th and 60th birthdays.”

The nationwide campaign by pork pie manufacturers Pork Farms gives recognition to everyday heroes in the community.

Last year, one of the five winners from across the UK who had a surprise party included nine-year-old charity fundraiser Louis Jonson from Tettenhall Wood.

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Charity helping elderly needs volunteers

A CHARITY helping elderly people in Sandwell to feel less isolated and continue living in their own homes has launched an urgent appeal for volunteers to cope with a growing demand.

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group scheme has supported more than 300 people across the borough since May.

Volunteers visit elderly residents

helping with activities such as weekly shops and driving them to social functions or simply just have a chat over a cup of tea.

The Sandwell Community Offer scheme also assists people access services which can assist them to continue living independently such as community alarms. Word has contin-

ued to spread about the scheme resulting in a rise in the number of people being referred or recommended, which is putting a strain on the existing team of 41 volunteers.

The charity wants to support as many people as possible and is appealing for volunteers who can spare some time. Call 0121 565 5605.

IRA pub bombings – new inquests to be held after 42 years

RELATIVES of the Birmingham Pub Bombings victims want the killers to 'come forward' after a coroner ruled there will be new inquests into the 21 deaths.

Senior coroner for Birmingham and Solihull Louise Hunt announced the decision after evidence emerged the police may have ignored tip-offs about the attacks on November 21, 1974.

During recent hearings, families of some of those killed in the blasts in the Mulberry Bush and Tavern In The Town pubs put forward a claim that the British state had knowledge of the attacks planned by the IRA before they were carried out.

The coroner found the families' claim that police had been protecting a mole in the terrorist cell was unfounded.

But setting out the reasons for her ruling, Ms Hunt said there was evidence that West Midlands Police had missed two potential warnings of the bomb attacks, including a comment made by men linked to the IRA that 'Birmingham would be hit next week'.

Significant

That overheard conversation was reported to police on November 10, 1974, but Ms Hunt said there was "no indication that the police took any active steps in response to it".

On the day of the attack, a second tip-off to the police by a source identified in court only as "Witness B" was also not followed up, she added.

That person is believed to be the source of what the coroner described as "significant" new information.

Ms Hunt said: "I am unable to exclude the possibility that this was a second missed opportunity to prevent the attacks."

"I have serious concerns that advanced notice of the bombs may have been available to the police and that they failed to take the necessary steps to protect life."

The pub bombings, widely acknowledged to be the work of the Irish Republican Army, left 222 injured and led to one of Britain's worst miscarriages of justice in the convictions of the Birmingham Six.

Many relatives of the victims welcomed the decision on new inquests.

Asked what message she had for the IRA bombers, Julie Hambleton, whose 18-year-old sister was killed in the double bombings, said: "Do the right thing. If you have any level of humanity and any moral compass then by rights you should come forward."

Trams back in city centre



Trams return to the streets of Birmingham city centre after 63 years

THE long-awaited Midland Metro scheme has finally hit the rails in Birmingham.

The Metro's city centre extension from Bull Street to Birmingham New Street and the Grand Central shopping centre began operating last week.

It sees trams running through the heart of the city centre for the first time since they were withdrawn in 1953.

Councillor Richard Worrall, Metro lead member for the ITA's transport delivery committee, which oversees Centro, said: "It's wonderful to see the Metro running

all the way between Wolverhampton and Birmingham New Street."

"It's obviously great news for Birmingham but also for the wider West Midlands. This extension is expected to create more than 1,300 sustainable new jobs and boost the regional economy by more than £50 million a year."

The extension to New Street is part of a £128 million project that has also seen the purchase of a new 21-strong fleet of Urbos 3 trams.

It will deliver more than three million people a year directly into the heart of Birmingham's main shopping district.

Children can face long wait for help on mental health

SOME youngsters in the West Midlands referred for mental health support waited 200 days to be seen, a new report reveals.

More than a quarter of children referred in England last year were sent away without help, including some who had attempted suicide, according to the review of mental health services by the Children's Commissioner. This found 14 per cent of youngsters with life-threatening conditions were not allowed specialist treatment. Even those who did secure treatment faced an average waiting time of more than 100 days.

Anne Longfield accused Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the NHS body responsible for young people's mental health services, of 'playing Russian roulette' with young lives. Average waiting times ranged from 14 days in a trust in north-west England to 200 days at one in the West Midlands.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who chairs the all-party group on mental health, said the problems have been 'building up in the system for many years' and called for a 'fundamental transformation' of services.

HUNDREDS of expectant mothers have been forced to change plans for their baby's birth, after being told they cannot be delivered at Walsall Manor Hospital.

A total of 250 mums-to-be from Sandwell will now give birth at services run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust.

It is the latest move by health bosses who are looking to relieve pressure at the over-burdened Manor which delivered around 4,900 babies last year.

It was subsequently branded 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission for a lack of capacity and un-

der-staffing in the maternity department.

An initial cap was introduced in March affecting around 500 women in Wilenhall and Cannock Chase, who were told to use Wolverhampton's New Cross instead of the Manor.

A fortnight later, the hospital's ruling bosses explained that that cap would be extended to mums-to-be in the Sandwell area, which has now been confirmed and implemented.

The latest change will impact on women registered at 11 GP practices following a quality risk assessment.

Exhibition at church to crown Queen's birthday

AN MP will launch an exhibition chronicling key events in Sedgley and Dudley during the Queen's lifetime.

The Sedgley E II R 90 exhibition is being staged at All Saints' Church Vicar Street, Sedgley, from tomorrow (Friday) until Sunday, featuring personal reminiscences and press cuttings.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin will open the event at 10am, which will kick off with singing by choirs from St Chad's, Cotwall End and Woodsetton Primary Schools.

On Saturday there will be organ recitals by Martin Platts, while Sedgley Morris Men will perform in the afternoon.

The exhibition covers the period of the Queen's life through the personal reminiscences of her subjects who live in Gornal and Sedgley –

events on the wider Dudley horizon are also captured. The starting point is more than 80 eye witness accounts of events during her reign – some are important events in individuals' lives, others are key events in the local community and nationally.

In addition the period from Her Majesty's birth in 1926 to her accession in 1952 is covered through research carried out through articles taken from the archives.

Children from Junior Church and Youth Group at All Saints' have prepared displays covering 2012 to the present.

Co-ordinator Martin Roberts said: "This projects stems from research began four years ago where I asked people around Sedgley for their stories for 60 years of the Queen's reign. I was struck by the amount of brilliant stories people were offering."



Martin Jones promotes the exhibition at Sedgley All Saints Church which centres on the Queen's life

Enriching the lives of animals at zoo

THREE Dudley Zoo keepers have joined forces to establish a committee aimed at enriching the lives of animals.

Adam Wrench, Sian-Leigh Simmer and Jess Jones meet once a month to devise and construct enrichment activities for the creatures housed at the attraction.

Senior Keeper Adam said: "By setting up this committee we're aiming to provide more and varied enrichment for the animals, which we'll rate and review.

"We also want to create an informative portfolio, which will be particularly useful for junior members of staff who will be able to access the folder and see what we've done for certain species in the past and if it proved successful or not."

The committee, who will build the activities themselves, are also contacting companies who can help by donating such items as hessian sacks or hanging baskets.

The zoo has also updated its Amazon wish-list.

Adam said: "Since we launched the online wish-list we've received some great things. We've now updated the list and tailored it to items we'd like to use for certain enrichment activities for particular species."

Hospital dates are missed by thousands

MORE than 1,500 people a month have missed an appointment with Dudley's NHS Trust in the past year, new figures show.

Every time a patient fails to turn up to an appointment, it costs the hospital trust an average of around £70 and a total of 18,884 patients have missed outpatient appointments in the past 12 months.

Paula Clark, Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and the Guest Outpatient Centre as well as Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge, said: "When a patient doesn't attend an appointment on the day, it's too late to offer their slot to somebody else.

"If patients can't attend, it's really important that they let us know so we can reschedule for another time and offer the slot to somebody else who needs it.

By Clare Butler

slight decrease in people missing three appointments from 1,516 in 2014/15 to 1,511 last year.

Some 496 people missed five or more appointments over the past 12 months, up from 444 during 2014/15.

These figures come as it was revealed last September that patients failed to turn up to more than 14,000 appointments at Dudley's hospitals in just six months.

Costs include the staffing resource wasted and the cost of additional letters and time taken to reschedule missed slots.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2014, a total of 40,719 appointments were also missed.

The bill at Dudley Group comes as bosses work to balance the books in the wake of funding cuts.

Bosses have been reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

They have also been looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies to claw back costs.

Hospital passports for dementia carers

A NEW initiative will give carers of patients living with dementia and other long-term conditions the chance to visit loved ones in hospital at any time.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has launched the John's Campaign as part of its plans to make the hospital more dementia friendly.

The campaign was founded by Worcester-born author Nicci Gerrard, who was concerned by how restricted visiting times were when her father, Dr John Gerrard, spent time in hospital.

It was launched with the introduction of carers' passports, which gave designated access to wards at any time.

Dawn Wardell, chief nurse for trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "We have put many initiatives in place to support patients living with dementia. Supporting John's Campaign with carers' passports is another step to improving their experience in our care."

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One of the bedrooms at The Bell at Bramshaw



The Bell: 'One of the cosiest spots in Hampshire'



A tempting selection of snacks at the bar

One of England's most beautiful attractions

HOLIDAYS

By Rebecca Woods

A SHOW of hands went up around the huge breakfast table next us, where 30 golfers, all matching chinos and club-branded sweaters, were sitting.

'That's it then. We're not playing,' said a presidential-looking fellow, laying his colossal umbrella alongside his chair.

The vote was 21 to 9: the rain was hammering down and the majority did not want to play. Instead, half of them made a return visit to the breakfast buffet and the rest found some comfy sofas and Sunday newspapers and didn't budge all morning. They looked secretly pleased the weather had turned for the worse.

We were at The Bell at Bramshaw, a cosy, historic hotel in the New Forest which dates back to 1782. We'd headed South for an out-ofdoors weekend – our first with a new baby in tow – and hadn't banked on that morning's deluge.

But as luck would have it, The Bell happens to be one of the cosiest spots in Hampshire, so for several hours that Sunday, along with our golfing counterparts and a few friendly dogs – since they are welcomed inside too – we barely moved. It was just the rest we needed.

It had been about 25 years since I'd visited the New Forest, last going when I was 10 years old on a family holiday. I won't be leaving it as long next time. As soon as we came off the M27 and started driving along country roads, cutting through thick forests, the memories came flooding back and I was immediately reminded what a stunningly beautiful place it is.

Thousands of wild ponies roam free, and we encountered about 15 meandering along the road before arriving at our destination. The Bell is a great base from which to explore the area. It has 27 rooms, a large but cosy bar area with flagstone floors and

plush sofas and a highly-regarded restaurant. It's also home to Hampshire's oldest golf course.

Situated just off the motorway, it's only a two and a half hour drive from the West Midlands, and within easy reach of all the picture postcard towns and villages, seaside resorts and 200 square miles of forests and heathland.

We got a warm welcome from the moment we stepped through the door, and enjoyed a lunch of grilled chicken and bacon club sandwich and Lyburn cheddar cheese and tomato in the bar while sinking into a leather sofa.

The Bell has five different types of room to suit a range of budgets. We were lucky enough to be staying in a 'manor room', a large bedroom with an additional seating area, with large windows bathing the room in light and giving us views of the garden. It was the kind of room you don't want to leave, so we were almost glad when the rain gave us an excuse to stay inside and relax.

Detour

When it did subside, we took a short drive to a couple of nearby towns and villages. Brockenhurst is 10 minutes down the road and a beautiful village with ponies and donkeys roaming the high street. As well as some great little independent shops, it has plenty of cosy cafes and welcoming pubs.

And it's also home to the famous 'water splash', a ford where dozens of animals often stop to take to drink, and the young villagers come out to play in during hot spells.

A bit further away is Lyndhurst, the largest of the New Forest villages. It has a plethora of independent shops to mooch around and plenty of cafes, pubs and restaurants to while away an afternoon in. The New Forest Visitor Centre is based there, which tells you all you need to know about the history of the area and has guides to discover every inch of it.

We drove to Blackwater Arboretum and headed off into the forest, our son strapped to my husband's chest. The sunlight shone through the colossal trees, and because of



Ponies roam in the streets of New Forest villages

its vastness, it felt like we were the only ones for miles around. On the way back we took a detour through some heathland and enjoyed some of the most beautiful views England surely has to offer. Watching the glow of sunset while surrounded by hundreds of acres of heather, ponies quietly roaming around us, is an experience I will never forget.

We learned that travelling with a four-month old puts paid to the holiday nightlife we were once used to, but we were looking forward to a night in at The Bell.

It's renowned for its good food, and we enjoyed a fabulous three-course meal – all while the boy slept in his pram next to our table. We will be eternally grateful to the

couple next to us who gave us sympathetic smiles as he wailed himself to sleep for 10 minutes. 'Don't worry, we went through all that about 20 years ago,' the gentleman reassured us.

When he finally dropped off, we celebrated with a bottle of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc and a delicious meal.

The sun came out the next day, so we drove to the pretty Georgian market town of Lynton on the coast and enjoyed an ice-cream while sitting on the marina watching the world go by.

The New Forest is one of England's most beautiful tourist attractions and The Bell is the perfect place from which to explore it – whatever the weather.

Say hello to summer with a visit to theme park

AS the days get warmer, and with summer almost in our grasp, Staffordshire based Drayton Manor Theme Park is encouraging families and friends to have a fun filled day out.

The park's onsite 15-acre zoo is home to over 100 species from all around the world and will this year see the arrival of new African grey parrots and the Tamarin Trail, which will see guests walk through beautiful planted gardens and get up close and personal with the cute and inquisitive monkeys.

There will be eight new enclosures housing a variety of tamarins and marmosets. There are five species so far, including the white lipped tamarin, red handed tamarin, emperor tamarin, cotton top tamarin and the common marmoset.

The family owned and run attraction is also home to Europe's only Thomas Land™, which last year underwent a huge £2.5million expansion, and is now bigger and better than ever.

New attractions include Flynn the Fire Engine, who is equipped with on-board hoses so riders can help to put any fires out, and Captain's Sea Adventure, which introduces not one, but six rotating Captain lifeboat carriages, all complete with their own cannons to squirt water.

Visitors can also enjoy Toby's Tram Express and the new Sodor Airport Terminal which boasts a top level balcony for VIP 'travellers' with not-to-be-missed views of Thomas Land.

There's also lots for thrill seekers, as Drayton Manor features some of the biggest, wettest and scariest rides around!

These include the drop tower, Apocalypse, stand up coaster, Shockwave, and Maelstrom, the only gyro swing to make you face outwards. And not to mention Stormforce 10, the water ride which features a reverse chute drop.

Little ones can also head over to the 4D Cinema for an adventure with Yogi Bear, filled with special effects that give a memorable experience for all.

There's no denying that a day at Drayton Manor can be exhausting, so when visitors need to recharge their batteries they can head over to the Grill Inn, which is open daily and serves up some tasty dishes to satisfy hungry mouths.

Those looking to extend their visit can book an overnight stay at the 150 bedroom 4-star Drayton Manor Hotel, which features 15 Thomas & Friends™ themed rooms, executive rooms and presidential suites sure to give you a comfortable night's sleep.

Enjoy all the fun and comfort at a fraction of the cost by taking advantage of Drayton Manor's great Stay and Play deals available throughout the year. This includes a one-night stay at the Drayton Manor Hotel with a full English breakfast, free Wi-Fi and car parking on site, plus one ticket per person into Drayton Manor Theme Park.

Families can bunk down in a Thomas room Stay and Play Package in their very own Thomas themed bunk bed, each complete with its own television and Thomas & Friends DVD.

Character breakfasts are also available during selected dates, with a special visit from one of the Thomas Land characters.

Stay and Play packages can be booked online or by calling 01827 285551.

To book tickets, or for more information about the park, visit www.draytonmanor.co.uk or call 0844 472 1950.

Reduced prices are available for tickets bought in advance.

For regular updates and news about Drayton Manor Theme Park join it on Twitter [www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor](https://twitter.com/Draytonmanor) and Facebook www.facebook.com/DraytonManorPark



Stately home pays homage to Capability Brown



Weston Park

AS Capability Brown's tercentenary gathers further momentum, Weston Park, the stately home near Shifnal, is looking forward to three events this week which consider Britain's greatest landscape gardener's legacy in its widest sense with a musical concert and two talks.

The renowned Birmingham Conservatoire will perform a selection of works from scored owned by Sir Henry Bridgeman, Brown's patron at Weston Park on Sunday (12) at 6pm.

Both Sir Henry and his daughter

Charlotte were keen musicians whose rich selection of sheet music remains at Weston Park where it has been studied and written about by Martin Perkins of Birmingham Conservatoire.

Two talks are planned to put Brown's work at Weston into context. The first of these was taking place this morning (9) when Mike Glasston, the Curator from Walsall's Leather Museum, presented: Walsall: Town of a Hundred Trades.

Then, on Thursday (16) Weston will welcome Patrick James and Eleanor Houldcroft of the Landscape Agency together with Andrew Bowman-Shaw from the Tree and Woodland Company to tell visitors about the work they have undertaken to manage Capability Brown's legacy at Weston.

Over the last 15 years they have been working with the Weston Park Foundation on a 25-year project to restore the park and pleasure grounds. The talk considers how the estate has in response to the fortunes and fashions of successive owners with particular focus on Brown in this anniversary year.

Tickets for the Birmingham Conservatoire are £15 per person including wine and canapés in the interval. The talks cost £5, including tea or coffee on arrival at 10.30am in the Granary Art Gallery and complimentary access to the house, park and gardens. To book for any of these events please contact Suzanne Parkin on 01952 852130 or e-mail Suzanne@weston-park.com. For further information please visit weston-park.com

fast the ticket

Breath of fresh Eyre

Belle of the ballet
Page 19

**NATIVE
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Entertainment Unleashed



Grumpy girls
Party time – Page 19

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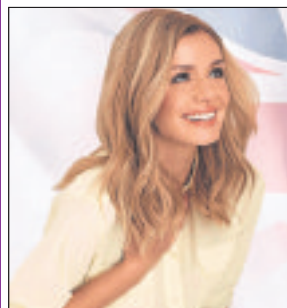
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**Wednesday, 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham**

The Welsh songstress performs her very own tribute celebrating The Queen's 90th birthday with a sensational programme of music featuring the London Concert Orchestra.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Jake Sims



**Saturday, 6pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham**

The former member of eight-piece 2014 X Factor finalists Stereo Kicks embarks on a solo tour ahead of the release of his new EP.
Visit www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/

Dean Friedman



**Saturday, 7.30pm
Wolverhampton Art Gallery**

You can thank your lucky stars for this concert, featuring decades of hits from one of the finest songwriters.
Visit <http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk/-/mbo-show-details/101939/dean-friedman>

Barry Steele And Friends



**Saturday, 7.30pm
New Alex Theatre, Birmingham**

Barry Steele stars as Roy Orbison in a tribute show to mark the Big O's 80th birthday. The specially revamped musical features all the big hits.
Visit www.birminghamtheatres.com/newalexandra.htm

POP

Jake Sims

Tomorrow at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Frankie Valli Story – Jersey Boy: Frankie Valli Tribute

Wed at 9pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Showaddywaddy

Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Barry Steele & Friends: The Roy Orbison Story

Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Katherine Jenkins

Wed at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Dean Friedman Concert

Tomorrow at 8pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

ROCK & METAL

Los Endos – Ultimate Genesis: Genesis Tribute

Tomorrow at 8.30pm, £15
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Stipe: R.E.M. Tribute

Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Elvis Years: Elvis Tribute

Thu at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

The Born Again Beatles

Tonight at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Drongos For Europe

Tonight at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Public Image Ltd

Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Genesis Connected

Tonight at 7.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

John Grant

Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Big Deal

Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Sunflower Lounge,
Birmingham, B5 4EG.
Call 0121 632 6756

Ben Folds

Mon at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Talon: Eagles Tribute

Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

BLUES, JAZZ SOUL & MOTOWN

Dancing In The Streets

Sun at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Jack Pack

Wed at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Ma Polaine's Great Decline

Tue at 8pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe,
King's Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Killkennys

Thu at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Slambovian Circus Of Dreams

Thu at 10.15pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Dee D & The James Gang

Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

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Tingting Yao

Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra 2015-16: Sibelius' Second

Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Steinway Fest 16

Thu at 4.20pm - 6pm,
Gateway Education & Arts
Centre, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.
Call 01743 355159

Jessica Efezeybek, Tung Khng Chua And Stavroula Thoma

Mon at 12.15pm - 1.15pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Hackney Colliery Band

Sun at 7.30pm, £10
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

THEATRE

Welsh National Opera: Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci

Tomorrow at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Road To Huntsville

Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Monstersaurus

Tomorrow at 11am, 2pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

A Flea In Her Ear: MD Amdrams

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Sooty Show: Sooty In Space

Tomorrow, Sun,
Cadbury World, Bournville,
Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

I, Elizabeth

Wed at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Legally Blonde The Musical: Get Your Wiggle On

Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury,
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Call 01743 281281

Choose To Shine

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Oakengates Theatre,
Telford,
TF2 6EP.
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Calamity Jane: BMOS Musical Theatre Company

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hamlet

Tonight at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Mon at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Tue
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7.30pm - 9.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm
- 9.30pm,
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SY8 2PQ. Call 01584 873291

A Night Of Dirty Dancing

Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
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Welsh National Opera: In Parenthesis

Tonight at 7.15pm - 9.45pm,
£16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Beggar's Opera

Sun at 3pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at
7pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Dad's Army

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at
7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Little Shop Of Horrors

Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Grumpy Old Women: 50 Shades Of Beige

Tonight at 8pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Beyond Caring

Tonight at 7.30pm - 9.50pm, To-
morrow at 2pm - 4.20pm, 7.30pm
- 9.50pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cuttin' It

Tue at 8pm - 10.20pm, Wed
at 1.30pm - 3.50pm, 8pm
- 10.20pm, Thu at 1.30pm -
3.50pm, 8pm - 10.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Northern Ballet: The Tortoise And The Hare

Tomorrow at 12.30pm, 2.15pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Northern Ballet: Jane Eyre

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Rocky Horror Show

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Ding Dong

Tomorrow at 11.30am, 2pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

OTHER EVENTS

Playful Penguins: Penguin Ice Adventure

Tomorrow at 10.15am, 12.45pm,
4pm, Sun at 10.15am, 12.45pm,
4pm, Mon at 10.15am, 12.45pm,
4pm, Tue at 12.45pm, 4pm,
Wed at 4pm, Thu at 10.15am,
12.45pm, 4pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Musical Picnic: Midweek Explorer

Wed at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Out'Ray'geous Rays: Talk

Tomorrow at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Sun at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at
1.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Oceanic Adventures: Ocean Tunnel

Wed at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Thu
at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Midweek Explorers With Vo Fletcher (Under 5s)

Wed at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Paint Your Own Miniature

Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Mister Maker

Tomorrow at 10am - 6pm, Sun at
10am - 6pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Nagging masterclass from grumpy women



Grumpy Old Women Kate Robbins, Jenny Eclair and Susie Blake return for 50 Shades of Beige in Birmingham

THE Grumpy Old Women are back – and aim to knock some sense into the nation.

Returning after a critically acclaimed, sell-out spring 2015 tour, the trio return to the Second City for their 50 Shades of Beige show.

Perrier Award-winning comedian, writer and original Grumpy Old Women star Jenny Eclair will be joined by fellow recruits Susie Blake,

a co-star of Victoria Wood and star of Mrs Brown's Boys and Coronation Street and actress and singer Kate Robbins, of Where The Heart Is and Casualty fame, mother to actress Emily Attack.

This show, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Friday (June 10) is the fourth leg of the current tour. The grumpy trio will educate the audience on the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a

free nagging masterclass, beards for women, a complimentary anger management workshop, the rules of middle-aged drinking, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia v retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and even a brief Zumba demonstration. All this and more!

The show starts at 8pm with tickets at £29.15 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Call 0871 246 5898 or 0844 871 7660.



Eyre we go with romantic ballet

JOIN one of literature's most iconic heroines on a journey of courage, romance and tragedy with the World Premiere tour of Northern Ballet's Jane Eyre.

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë and performed during the 200th anniversary of her birth, the acclaimed Leeds-based company will bring this beautiful gothic love story to life at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tomorrow evening (Friday) and on Saturday.

Jane Eyre is choreographed by British dance-maker Cathy Marston. For this new production, she has brought on-board composer Philip Feeney to compile and arrange a score for Jane Eyre.

It tells of how cruelly-treated orphan Jane grows into a responsible governess, whose world is shaken by her brooding and passionate employer Mr Rochester and how their romance is overshadowed by a dark secret.

Cathy Marston said: "Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time and when I think of Jane I feel inspired by images of her passionate but 'impossible' relationship with Mr Rochester."

The company also perform Tortoise & The Hare, a 40-minute ballet for children from choreographer Dreda Blow, at the Grand on Saturday morning and again in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Royal Ballet continue the Shakespeare commemoration with choreographer John Cranko's version of The Taming of the Shrew, a sparkling battle of the sexes comedy, performed at the Birmingham Hippodrome from June 16-18.

BRB's Shakespeare theme continues from June 22-25 with a triple bill inspired by the Bard.

These include José Limón's The Moor's Pavane, based on Othello; David Bintley's The Shakespeare Suite set to a swinging Duke Ellington score; and a new work by Jessica Lang based on the Sonnets.

Lera lends hand at Ben Folds concert

NASHVILLE-BASED singer/songwriter Lera Lynn, a star of True Detective, supports Ben Folds on his latest tour, which hits the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, next week.

Folds a multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter, returns to the UK with yMusic following the release of his critically acclaimed album So There. Eight new chamber rock songs recorded with yMusic have also been released.

Ben and yMusic also paired up for a sold-out performance at the Royal Opera House in August.

Start time is 7.30pm next Monday, June 13. Tickets are £39. Book at www.thsh.co.uk

S Club Paul does Time Warp again

FORMER S Club member Paul Cattermole, comedian Norman Pace and one-time X Factor contestant Diana Vickers are among the cast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week.

Liam Tamne also features in Richard O'Brien's classic musical, which features the timeless tunes of Sweet Transvestite, Damn it Janet, and the pelvic-thrusting Time Warp.

It runs at the Lichfield Street venue from Monday to Saturday with two shows on each of the final two dates. Tickets start at £19.50. Call 01902 429 212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Fotheringay folk in live music return

FOLK legends Fotheringay return with a new set of live dates and will perform in Bilston later this month.

Original members Jerry Donahue, Gerry Conway, and Pat Donaldson will be joined by special guests Katherine Roberts, Sally Barker and PJ Wright – respectfully filling the shoes of Sandy Denny and Trevor Lucas – for the gig at the Robin 2, in Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, June 28.

The tour follows the release of a four-disc box set.

Tickets for the Robin date are £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or visit www.therobin.co.uk

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CHOICE



Kirsty Wark

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2016 (BBC2, 9.10pm)
Morgan Quaintance and Kirsty Wark go behind-the-scenes at the Royal Academy, as the institution prepares for its annual artistic showcase. This year, sculptor Richard Wilson is serving as curator, and has promised an event that will be marked by 'the wow factor'. Morgan and Kirsty offer viewers a glimpse of the works that will be on display when the exhibition opens, and share the stories of some of the aspiring artists who submitted paintings for inclusion this year.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.15** Trooping the Colour 2016. **1.05** BBC News. **1.20** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Albania v Switzerland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Wales v Slovakia (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.20** BBC News. **7.30** Regional Programme. **7.40** The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **8.30** The Musketeers. King Louis' estranged brother Gaston (newcomer Andre Flynn) returns to Paris, having previously been exiled from court. On arriving in the capital, he is involved in the brutal slaughter of a band of veteran soldiers at a tavern, and the Musketeers' loyalties are torn when the crown orders them to defend the villainous prince against recrimination. Meanwhile, as Louis welcomes his traitorous sibling back into the fold with open arms, Feron and Grimaud believe they may have found a kindred spirit. **9.25** Casualty. In the wake of Charlie's suspension, Big Mac still refuses to come clean about stealing the drugs. However, a spark of his better nature remains, and when he bravely steps into the line of fire to protect an abused young girl, he finds the courage to admit to his crimes. Meanwhile, Elle receives a frosty reception from her colleagues following her harsh treatment of Charlie, and Rita relishes the attention she is receiving from Iain, despite still being angry with him. **10.15** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.35** MOTD: Euro 2016 Highlights. Gary Lineker presents action from the latest three group matches from France, featuring England v Russia, Wales v Slovakia and Albania v Switzerland. **11.35** Film: I Know What You Did Last Summer. (1997) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30** Film: The Maggie. (1954) **8.55** Film: The Lavender Hill Mob. (1951) **10.15** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **10.45** The Hair Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **11.45** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.15** Athletics: Diamond League. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Film: On Moonlight Bay. (1951) **3.35** Flog It! (R) **5.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.30** This Week's World. **6.10** Trooping the Colour Highlights 2016. Huw Edwards introduces a round-up of the best moments of this morning's ceremony, from Horse Guards Parade in central London. **7.40** Gardeners' World. Monty Don plants scented annuals and squashes at Longmeadow and harvests honey, while Adam Frost looks at how small spaces in London can be utilised to attract wildlife. (R) **8.10** Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul Merton embarks on a coast-to-coast journey across the northern Highlands, from the remote lighthouse at Tarbat Ness to the castle at Eilean Donan. **8.40** Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. (R) **9.10** The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2016. Morgan Quaintance and Kirsty Wark go behind-the-scenes at the Royal Academy to provide a preview of the works set to appear in this year's summer exhibition. **10.10** Q+X. Extended edition. Bill Bailey, Sandi Toksvig, Jason Manford and regular panellist Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions about lethal things. **10.55** Versailles. Harsh steps are taken to preserve the royal reputation, while flamboyant Philippe causes a stir. Elsewhere, the King humiliates a suspect noble; (R) Inside Versailles. **11.55** MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. England v Russia. A chance to see in full the opening Group B game of the tournament for both sides, which took place at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille. **1.35** Film: JUNKhearts. (2011) **3.10** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **2.10** Film: Death on the Nile. (1978) Agatha Christie mystery, with Peter Ustinov. **4.55** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum. **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Euro 2016. England v Russia (Kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the opening Group B game of the tournament for both sides, which takes place at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille. Roy Hodgson's England come into this competition on the back of a perfect qualification campaign. The Three Lions won all 10 of their games to progress to the finals with relative ease, and captain Wayne Rooney broke the goalscoring record for his country along the way when he scored a penalty against Switzerland at Wembley to surpass Bobby Charlton's record of 49, which had stood for more than 45 years. By contrast, Russia squeezed through as runners-up in Group G, finishing eight points behind the impressive Austrians. Former England boss Fabio Capello was sacked as manager midway through their campaign after a slow start – replacement Leonid Slutsky won all four of his games in charge to lead the Russians to their fifth European Championship finals since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Presented by Mark Pougatch, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle, and analysis by Lee Dixon, Ian Wright and Peter Crouch. **10.30** ITV News; Weather. **10.45** Secrets of Growing Up. Revealing the surprising secrets of growing up. (R) **11.45** Film: Carry On Loving. (1970) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. **7.00** Motor Sport: Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.30** Motor Sport: Caterham Motorsport. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Musselburgh. **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.00** Homes by the Med. **6.00** Channel 4 News. **6.20** Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. Edited for language and violence. **10.00** Formula 1: Canada Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Action from Montreal, where the grid positions for the seventh round of the season were decided at the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve. **11.35** Film: Zombieland. (2009) A mutated virus sweeps across America, turning most of the population into hideous flesh-eating zombies. A hard-drinking fearless adventurer leads a small band of young survivors on a perilous journey through the wasteland in search of a safe haven. Comedy horror, with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin. **1.10** Film: Drug War. (2012) A drug dealer facing execution tries to save his own skin by helping undercover police officers to infiltrate a crime syndicate. Gangster thriller, with Louis Koo and Ka Tung Lam. **3.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ste confesses he nearly gave in to drink again. (R) **5.10** The Food Chain. (R) **5.35** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show: Royal Special. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. (R) **12.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.00** The Royals: A Right Royal Wedding. **2.00** Secrets of the Palace Pets. (R) **3.00** Inside Buckingham Palace. (R) **4.00** Inside Buckingham Palace. (R) **5.00** Inside Buckingham Palace: The Queen's Worst Year. (R) **6.00** Elizabeth II: 90 Glorious Years. Documentary looking back at the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Featuring archive footage and interviews with those who have known, worked for and observed her closely. (R) **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights of the third day of the Third Test at Lord's, where the final match of the series continued. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes. **8.00** 5 News Weekend. **8.20** NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen and Sam meet up with former colleague Mike Renko, who is back in town on the trail of a civilian militia he thinks is responsible for the theft of anti-tank missiles from a Navy base. Their discussion is interrupted by Hetty with footage of a man being strangled at an aquarium – and the victim is identified as a lance corporal who was Renko's inside man at the group. (R) **9.05** NCIS. An investigation into the murder of a US Navy lieutenant reveals that a rare painting loaned to the scene of the crime is actually a fake. Luckily for the agents, Tony's con-artist father has returned to town, having broken up with Linda, and is on hand to provide expert advice as the hunt for the killer takes them into the shady world of the black market. Guest starring Robert Wagner. **10.00** Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house. **11.00** The Funny Side of Kids. **12.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** House Doctor. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Natural World 8.00 0-Day: The Last Heroes **9.00** The Disappearance **10.45** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **11.45** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **12.45** Van Morrison – Up on Cyprus Avenue **1.45** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.55** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **3.55** Close **ITV2** **11.05** Catchphrase **11.50** Ninja Warrior UK **12.45** The Cube: Celebrity Special **1.45** Film: Sweet November (2001) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Sweet November (2001) **4.05** Film: Nancy Drew (2007) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Nancy Drew (2007) **6.05** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **8.05** Film: Wild Child (2008) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Wild Child (2008) **10.00** Love Island **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **12.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.40** Foyle's War **4.50** Midsomer Murders **5.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Colditz **12.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire **1.00** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.20** TT 2016: Hutchy Miracle Man **12.20** TT 2016: Senior TT **1.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **3.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Live. Coverage of the sixth stage of the UCI World Tour race. **4.45** World Cup Top Goalscorers **5.00** Prawn Stars **6.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **7.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **8.00** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **10.00** Prawn Stars **10.30** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race **2.11.30** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.40** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.00** Gogglebox **12.40** Rude Tube: Animal Madness **1.40** The Inbetweeners **2.45** Gogglebox **3.25** Jane the Virgin **Film4** **11.00** Dark Waters (1944) **1.00** Vice Versa (1998) **2.55** The Addams Family (1991) **4.55** Addams Family Values (1993) **6.40** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** The Football Factory (2004) **1.30** R100 (2013) **3.40** Close

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CHOICE



Angel and Dick

Escape to the Chateau (Channel 4, 7pm)
Dick and Angel decide they will live as self-sufficiently as they can while restoring the chateau, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs for breakfast every morning. However, they still have countless problems to deal with, and have only £20,000 left to spend on the project. The chateau is still without either heating or water, while the 59 windows are crumbling. While Dick's renovations fall behind schedule, Angel is in her element coming up with ideas for what the finished building will look like.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.25** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Songs of Praise. **1.15** The Queen's 90th Birthday: The Patron's Lunch. **4.15** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Poland v Northern Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C, as the teams face each other at the Stade de Nice. **7.10** BBC News. **7.25** Regional Programme. **7.35** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Germany v Ukraine (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C for both teams, which takes place at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille. This will be just the sixth overall meeting between these nations, and the first at a major tournament, and the Ukrainians will be chasing their maiden victory over the reigning world champions. Following their triumph in Brazil, Joachim Loew's men got off to a rocky start in the qualifying campaign, but eventually went on to top a group that also contained Republic of Ireland and Scotland, and they will be considered among the favourites to lift the trophy in France, and claim it for the fourth time. Their opponents are appearing at a European Championships for the first second time, with the first coming four years ago when they served as co-hosts alongside Poland, although it is worth noting that they have only been eligible as a nation since 1996, having formerly been a part of the Soviet Union. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy, and analysis by Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer. **10.05** BBC News. **10.25** Regional Programme. **10.35** Regional Programme. **11.15** Live at the Apollo. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and Danny Bhoj. (R) **12.00** Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) A cocky teenage boy falls for a minister's sensible daughter while tutoring younger students as part of his community service. Romantic drama, starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 This Farming Life. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Hair Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** Live Triathlon. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds. **6.00** The Queen's 90th Birthday: Highlights. Memorable moments from the weekend's events, which started on Friday with a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral and included the Trooping the Colour ceremony and a Patron's Lunch at St James's Park. **7.00** Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. The duo travel through Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, paying their respects to Mayan deity Maximon and scaling the active volcano Pacaya along the way. (R) **8.00** Top Gear. Chris Evans and Sabine Schmitz test drive the new Audi R8, Matt LeBlanc takes a tour of London, and boxer Anthony Joshua and comedian Kevin Hart are the Stars in a Rally Cross Car. **9.00** City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time. **10.00** Mock the Week. Guests Gary Delaney, Ed Gamble, Nish Kumar, Tiff Stevenson and Josh Widdicombe join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R) **10.35** Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane is joined by internet celebrity Mazzi Maz, and together they are pursued across Poland by guard dogs, with only their phones to help them avoid capture. **11.20** Flat TV. The flatmates are locked out, but while Tom wants to get back in, Naz sees an opportunity to be free of his friend's domestic tyranny. **11.45** The Millionaire's Holiday Club. Inside the world of high-end luxury holidays, tailored for some of the UK's wealthiest jet-setters, from a £40,000 a week trip to Seychelles to a night in Mustique for £2,000. (R) **12.45** MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** Life in Debt Valley. (R) **5.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **11.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.00** Euro 2016. Turkey v Croatia (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.25** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.40** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. Bernice turns to Andy for solace after he takes the blame for the damage she has caused. Holly goes into town, leaving Mollie terrified she will spend her wages on heroin. **7.30** Coronation Street. Tracy accuses Steve and Michelle of making Amy feel unwanted, while Billy is shocked when Sean dumps him. At the bistro, Leanne defends Nick from Robert when he makes a scene, and Sally is horrified to find her conservatory swimming in beer. **8.30** Vera. Return of the crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn. The detective investigates a fire that rips through a holiday park on the Northumberland coast, destroying three cabins. A young woman's body is discovered and the resort's owner, Jim Viner, fears the victim is his sister Deena when he returns from a weekend away with his daughter Clare. With Jim's suspicions confirmed, a police report then reveals Clare's boyfriend Ryan and his friends had been partying near the scene hours before the blaze started, but where are they now, and where is Deena's best friend Sally? Co-starring Kenny Doughty, Cush Jumbo and Jon Morrison. (R) **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.45** Euro 2016 Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest three matches in France, featuring Poland v Northern Ireland, Germany v Ukraine and Turkey v Croatia. **11.45** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R) **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Extreme Cake Makers. **1.00** Film: Step Up 4: Miami Heat. (2012) Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. **2.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Scarlett Douglas helps a couple preparing for retirement to find a new home in Tobago, an island they have visited annually for the past 20 years. **5.00** Film: Aladdin. (1992) A street urchin happens across a magical lamp, home to a genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger. **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel try to live self-sufficiently, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs. However, they are still without heat and water and the 59 windows are crumbling. **8.00** Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress visits the Queen's official Scottish residence, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and explores the bed chamber once occupied by Mary, Queen of Scots. She also boards the royal yacht Britannia and visits Inveraray Castle, where she meets the Master of the Royal Household of Scotland. At Borthwick Castle in Midlothian, she gets a lesson in archery and talks to the Royal Falconer. **9.00** Interview with a Murderer. Criminologist Professor David Wilson talks to convicted murderer Bert Spencer, who served 15 years in prison for shooting a man. He has long been suspected of also killing paperboy Carl Bridgewater in 1978, a crime that four men were falsely imprisoned for, but has always protested his innocence of that crime. The programme re-examines the evidence surrounding both cases. **10.30** Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights. **12.35** Grand Prix: The Killer Years. The dangers of Formula One during the 1960s and 70s. (R) **1.30** Multi-Million Pound Properties. (R) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Draw It! (R) **5.05** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Plo Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away: Final Demand Special. (R) **3.50** Can't Pay Special: Secrets & Lies. (R) **4.50** Film: Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **6.50** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights of the fourth day of the Third Test at Lords, where the final match of the series continued. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes. **8.00** Now That's Funny! Featuring a bodybuilder reciting Shakespeare while lifting weights, a selection of videos featuring couples couples, and footage of a penguin that has inspired 15 jokes. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week. **9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** Most Shocking Moments in Pop 2. Celebrating outrageous events from the world of pop music, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Hardy on his chat show, and George Michael's dubious driving. (R) **12.45** Lip Sync Battle. Justin Bieber takes on Deion Sanders. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A doctor sees a smoker who has developed a chronic lung condition. (R) **4.00** Fire Starter: Caught in the Act. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Pappano's Italian Double Bill at the Royal Opera House **9.40** Planet Earth **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Lance Armstrong Story - Stop at Nothing: Storyville **12.10** Wonders of the Universe **1.10** Horizon: Man on Mars - Mission to the Red Planet **2.10** Rise of the Continents **3.10** Natural World **3.55** Close **ITV2**
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Love Island **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05** Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **4.00** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1985) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.10** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **8.00** Educating Joey Essex **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Educating Joey Essex **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
3.50 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **5.55** Our Queen at 90 **8.00** The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration **10.55** Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **1.15** FYI Daily **12.00** Film: Closing the Ring (2007) **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.10** Judge Judy **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.25 TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race **2.10** Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Live. **2.15** Snooker v Darts **2.25** Prawn Stars **4.15** Film: Guns Smoke (1953) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** Film: Guns Smoke (1953) **5.55** The Wine Show **7.00** Cycling: Critérium du Dauphiné Highlights **8.00** Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.45** Movies Now **10.00** Film: First Blood (1982) **11.50** Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00** Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **E4**
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **1.20** The Goldbergs **2.20** The Big Bang Theory **7.20** Film: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **10.00** Film: Predators (2010) **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Gogglebox **Film4**
1.00 Thunderbirds (2004) **2.55** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.45** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.35** Vertical Limit (2000) **9.00** Fantastic Four (2005) **11.05** Powder Room (2013) **12.45** Silver Linings Playbook (2012) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

A Sister's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A police officer's life is turned on its head when her sister shows up at her door after 16 years of confinement in a psychiatric hospital. Drama, starring Natasha Henstridge and Kelly Rutherford. (2013)

TUESDAY

Columbo: Lady in Waiting, ITV, 11.40pm

A desperate woman is determined to rid herself of her domineering brother and gain control of the family business, so hatches a plan to shoot him and claim she thought he was a burglar. Although her plan seems to have worked, her new-found power goes to her head – and she also has to contend with Columbo, who is convinced of her guilt. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. (1971)

WEDNESDAY

Lost Letter Mysteries: From Paris with Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The postal detectives explore the mystery of true love when they deliver divorce papers to one couple on the same day as Oliver's missing wife reappears. Drama, starring Eric Mabius and Crystal Lowe. (2015)



Red Heat, Friday, ITV, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

Like Mother, Like Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A distraught mother takes matters into her own hands when her teenage daughter goes missing and decides to investigate the case herself. She finds a supportive ally in the girl's college professor, but does not realise he is actually the man who murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford, William R Moses and Danielle Kind. (2007)

FRIDAY

Red Heat, ITV, 11.05pm

A Russian detective travels to America to oversee the extradition of a Georgian drug baron responsible for supplying cocaine in Moscow. He is teamed up with a hostile Chicago cop, but when their prisoner kills an officer and escapes, they put aside their mutual mistrust to bring him to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi, Peter Boyle, Laurence Fishburne and Ed O'Ross. (1988)

A Strange end to the season is in store

Fans of the Dark Knight have been rather spoiled this year as Bruce Wayne and his associates dominated the big and small screens.

Obviously there's little chance of the pointy eared sleuth showing up in Gotham: Wrath of the Villains as it takes place before Wayne donned that iconic cowl, but he did get the chance to clash with fellow superhero the Man of Steel in one of the year's most talked about films.

Okay, it may not have been a flop of Batman and Robin-style proportions, but Warner Bros' tentpole epic Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice received a savaging from many critics.

Jessie Eisenberg's cringeworthy performance as Lex Luthor, and Wonder Woman sat at a laptop watching trailers for other pending DC Comics-inspired movies such as Aquaman were two of the many problems that led to it underperforming with a \$900million gross.

Not a bad haul by anyone's reckoning, but when you take into account the fact it cost \$250million and needed to gross around

\$600million to break even, Warner bosses were left green with envy when Captain America: Civil War (which had the same price tag) romped away with more than \$1.1 billion.

The clash between Marvel and DC movies has been going on for some years now, and for film fans sometimes proves more fascinating than the flicks themselves.

However, on the small screen DC characters have a better footing with hits such as The Flash, Arrow, Supergirl, Legends of Tomorrow, and this Batman prequel leaving followers hungry for more.

Naturally as this is the series finale, showrunner Bruno Heller has saved a chunk of change to ensure the latest run goes out with a bang.

Trapped inside Professor Hugo Strange's secret monster-making laboratory with a ticking bomb, detective Jim Gordon has to deal with a shape-shifting imposter, while Bruce Wayne and Lucius Fox have to contend with Edward Nygma, aka The Riddler.

In case you're wondering, that's not the same Strange which will be played by Benedict Cumberbatch in upcoming movie Doctor Strange, but a character who has been around since 1940 and became one of the Dark Knight's first recurring characters.

TV fans may recall seeing him in excellent 1990s saga Batman: The Animated Series, and assorted other shows and video games before Jurassic World's Ed Wong took on the role in season two of Gotham.

Wong made history as the first actor to play Strange in a live action capacity. Now, with director and star Ben Affleck lined up to make the next Batman movie, and the fact that many villains have been exploited in the nine Dark Knight movies to date (yes, that includes the 1966 camp classic and BVS: DOJ), Hugo stands a good chance of returning for Battlefleck's pending epic.

For now, settle back and enjoy as Ben McKenzie (James Gordon), David Mazouz (Bruce Wayne), Cory Michael Smith (Edward 'Riddler' Nygma) and Jada Pinkett Smith (Fish Mooney) breathe life into Bob Kane's universe.



Gotham: Wrath of the Villains – Season Finale, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Rubbish – Battle of the Bins: Tonight, ITV, 8pm

There was a time when you would throw your empty cans, cereal boxes and plastic milk bottles in the bin, leave it for the rubbish men and they would pick it up once a week. But then everything changed, and suddenly millions had to divide household waste up into different coloured bins and figure out what was being collected on which day. Which might be why for the first time in 10 years the recycling rates are falling, an intriguing statistic as the UK produces millions of tons of waste each year. With some councils reducing bin sizes and collecting rubbish less often, Jonathan Maitland assesses the facts and reports on the potential impact this could have on Britain's streets and the environment.

TUESDAY

Britain & Europe: The Immigration Question, BBC2, 9pm

With the EU Referendum approaching next week, Mishal Husain offers viewers an impartial insight into the effects of migration from other EU countries on the UK. Her report takes in everything from the impact on the British economy and jobs market, through to education, housing and the NHS.

Experts from both sides of the in/out debate share their views on the subject, as Mishal assesses how concepts of national identity and visions of Britain's future look set to dictate how the public will vote on Thursday, June 23.

WEDNESDAY

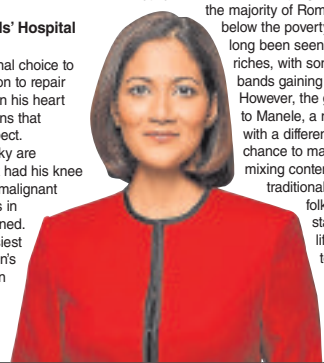
Your Child In Their Hands: Kids' Hospital, Channel 5, 7pm

Joanna and Gary have an emotional choice to make. Their son needs an operation to repair his cleft lip and palate, but a hole in his heart as a result of premature birth means that surgery is a very dangerous prospect. Meanwhile, Jack and his mum Vicky are hospital regulars. A year ago, Jack had his knee and thigh amputated to remove a malignant tumour, but after just a few months in remission, Jack's cancer has returned. The hours after school are the busiest times in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital's A&E department, and an 11-year-old girl is on her way in. She has fallen from a climbing frame and suffered a severe blow to the head, an experience which makes her mum re-evaluate her life.

THURSDAY

The New Gypsy Kings, BBC2, 9pm

No, this is not a film about a tribute act singing Bamboleo. Instead it's a look at the latest trend in Gypsy music that is sweeping across Romania. As the majority of Romanians' Roma live below the poverty line, music has long been seen as a passport to riches, with some traditional Gypsy bands gaining international fame. However, the genre has given rise to Manele, a new type of music with a different sound and the chance to make even more cash, mixing contemporary pop with traditional Romanian Gypsy folk music. Though its stars live luxurious lifestyles, earning up to 20,000 Euros a night, Manele has been described as the Gypsy version of gangster rap and its biggest stars have had connections to



Britain & Europe: The Immigration Question, Tuesday, BBC2, 9pm

some of the country's most notorious underworld figures. Filmmaker Liviu Tipurita takes a closer look at this controversial craze.

FRIDAY

Gogglesprogs, Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Following on from a pilot edition shown last Christmas, the Gogglesprogs return for a six-part run in which they maintain a close eye on a range of TV output, from entertainment shows and documentaries to some all-time classic films and up-to-the-minute news stories. Participants include six-year-old Molly and her eight-year-old brother William who both love helping out on the family farm, Stephanie who adores Justin Bieber and her friend Christina who prefers classical music, and schoolmates Jacob and Connor. In this opening programme, the youngsters offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on The Undateables, Donald Trump and Mamma Mia.

Eurotrash

Channel 4, 9pm

A special edition of the cult hit show reminding viewers of the many, varied and occasionally alarming cultural delights enjoyed by their European cousins.

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BRAIN GYM No.381

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

17 22 7 10 14 10 6 19 13 15
6 2 3 21 17 22 6 24
19 4 13 6 24 1 22 9 19 16
4 15 19 2 22 22 6
22 21 10 12 9 3 13 1 21
24 2 23 4 17 2 21
21 17 17 22 1 18 24 16 12
21 24 18 24 10 21 9 24 3
4 4 10 21 15 10 2 L 24
6 4 6 9 19 21 15 4 15
4 4 24 24 3 2 12 13 11
1 10 22 10 1 19 20 6 24 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
X H Z M N A S O T L R B E
F G D W K Q J P Y U C I V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Habit makes us grow old (5)
- 4. A match for the devil (7)
- 8. Just a moment! (7)
- 9. Not standing for falsehoods? (5)
- 10. Puts away in great style (4)
- 11. Apparently is not to be satisfied with just part, nevertheless (5,3)
- 13. They secure no decisions on the field (4)
- 14. The staff came to be disorganised (4)
- 16. Why we consult reference books, of course (2,2,4)
- 17. Domesticated, thanks to me! (4)
- 20. Prize awarded for a zero mark? (5)
- 21. It's hot being a great performer in heavy going (7)
- 22. Sew lots, perhaps, but be the last to finish (7)
- 23. It's made to measure (5)

Down

- 1. One girl is not changed for an international body (6,7)
- 2. Tessa came up with something useful (5)
- 3. Made up cheese (4)
- 4. Fired, yet treated leniently (3,3)
- 5. This way won't get you anywhere (3-2-3)
- 6. Equipment in what must be a warship (7)
- 7. He takes each issue as it comes (7,6)
- 12. Let's out that the radio's a gift (4,4)
- 13. There's no smoke without it! (7)
- 15. Speedy help for a forgetful actor (6)
- 18. Be of service when a few grow sick (5)
- 19. Sure to upset an employer (4)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9
10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18
19 20 21
22 23

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Fear (5)
- 4. Betoken (7)
- 8. Hide (7)
- 9. Rank (5)
- 10. Sole (4)
- 11. Mockery (8)
- 13. Forehead (4)
- 14. Yield (4)
- 16. Last (8)
- 17. Head (4)
- 20. Intellect (5)
- 21. Obscure (7)
- 22. Implore (7)
- 23. Hall (5)

Down

- 1. Shameful (13)
- 2. Surpass (5)
- 3. Act (4)
- 4. Like better (6)
- 5. Recipient (8)
- 6. Scrutinize (7)
- 7. Separation (13)
- 12. Start (8)
- 13. Clamorous (7)
- 15. Climb (6)
- 18. Sufficient (5)
- 19. Droop (4)

Sudoku

1 2 6 3
3 2 6
6 5 9 1 4
7 8 6 1
5 9
8 1 3 8
1 3 9 4 8
2 8 1 3 7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4 3 2 7 8 1 5 9 6
9 6 5 3 4 2 1 7 8
1 7 8 5 6 9 2 4 3
7 5 6 9 1 8 4 3 2
3 2 9 6 8 5 4 7 8 1
8 1 4 2 3 7 9 6 5
6 9 3 1 7 5 8 2 4
5 4 7 8 2 6 3 1 9
2 8 1 4 9 3 6 5 7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Pikestaff; 8 Once; 9 Retailing; 10 Bedlam; 11 Stand; 14 Lures; 15 Tear; 16 Emits; 18 Sups; 20 Tools; 21 Spray; 24 Rising; 25 Front door; 26 Lean; 27 Ballerina. Down: 1 Doubtless; 2 Acid drops; 4 Item; 5 Exact; 6 Talent; 7 Fine; 9 Raise; 11 Slimy; 12 Deposited; 13 Press gang; 17 Stair; 19 Spinal; 22 Adder; 23 Proa; 24 Roan. QUICK - Across: 3 Ascertain; 8 Reap; 9 Contented; 10 Callow; 11 Brief; 14 Pupil; 15 Rate; 16 Slain; 18 Corn; 20 Onset; 21 Salad; 24 Lethal; 25 Delighted; 26 Fort; 27 Governance. Down: 1 Precipice; 2 Callipers; 4 Slow; 5 Enter; 6 Tender; 7 Idea; 9 Coils; 11 Brand; 12 Falsehood; 13 Ventilator; 17 Noted; 19 Native; 22 Ashen; 23 Nero; 24 Less.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Who wrote a trilogy of books featuring the spy Bernard Samson?
- 2. Of which fruit is the plantain a subspecies?
- 3. From which football club did Billy Bonds claim he was forced out after 27 years?
- 4. Between which two countries was the former kingdom of Navarre divided?
- 5. Of which county is Parts of Holland a former separate administrative county?

- 6. Who wrote the cantata Carmina Burana?
- 7. From which tree is gum arabic obtained?
- 8. In which country is the province Friesland?
- 9. Who was the first Irish athlete ever to win a gold medal at the European Championships?
- 10. By what name was Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Flower arrangement;
- 2 Linford Christie; 3 Cardinal Wolsey;
- 4 Patmos; 5 Charlotte Brontë; 6 France;
- 7 Iron; 8 Relativity; 9 A rodent; 10 Dutch.

Niner: LUCRATIVE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 7238 gives an instrument,
- 5695 gives an opera,
- 4171 gives a musical piece.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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- 16 JUL • EXHIBITIONISM - ROLLING STONES
- 30 JUL, 3 SEP • KYNREN AT AUCKLAND CASTLE & YORK
- 6 AUG, 24 SEP • EDINBURGH TATTOO (MANY DATES)
- 15 AUG • BOND IN MOTION
- 28 AUG • SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW
- 16 SEP • TALL SHIPS REGATTA
- 17 SEP • DANIEL O'DONNELL
- 1 OCT • GRASSINGTON RAGS WEEKEND & TEAM
- 15 OCT • YORN FOOD FESTIVAL
- 29 OCT • BATTLE OF ILKINGHAM 950
- 3 DEC • MATELOCK ILLUMINATIONS
- 17 DEC • ALFIE BOE & MICHAEL BALL IN SHEPHERD
- 17 DEC • CINDERELLA PANTO IN LIVERPOOL

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Soft and sweet – the falafel starter



Lamb beyti served with salad



Centrally placed, this Turkish treasure – Basil of Anatolia



Chicken shish dish

Nothing Fawltly about this one, Basil is a real Turkish delight

ONE place that Walsall really lags behind on is its dining scene.

Other than your usual smattering of chain eateries you are hard-pressed to find somewhere centrally that offers up that taste of difference.

So when news filtered through that a new option was coming – and it would have the USP of Turkish food – the town really sat up and took notice.

And having now experienced what Basil of Anatolia has to offer, let's hope it is able to grow and thrive.

From what we witnessed one cool Friday night they deserve to be able to capture their own corner of the market and make a real go of it. And in times of economic hardship it would be ace to have a success story to use as a proverbial two fingers to all the doom-mongers and pessimistic bad news

By Leigh Sanders

merchants. Basil, as the place will from now on affectionately be called, has a central location, round the corner from the library, nestled on Freer Street.

Of course the downside can be the difficulty to park. But given most of the surrounding council-owned car parks are free after 6pm you can leave your vehicle in the one just off Lichfield Street and it's only a short stroll away.

It has a simple feel, yet is clean and strangely welcoming given the building is just a generic food space – it was Jenny's Restaurant before if that jogs people's memory.

It wasn't busy for a Friday night, sad to see given our earlier hopes that this will be a successful venture. Hopefully this was a glitch the evening we attended and that on

a normal evening, the people of Walsall and beyond are more outgoing.

With near enough the freedom of the venue we picked a table at the back to try and avoid the happy hubbub of a couple of larger groups sitting near the entrance.

Conversation

Everything felt clean and new. One nice touch was each table had the venue's name and logo etched into them.

We were approached quickly. Our server engaged us in conversation straight away. He asked whether we had eaten Turkish food before and our tastes when it came to spices. This is always helpful when trying somewhere new.

We ordered, and were provided with enormous olives soaked in oils and soft, light chunks of bread that we probably shouldn't have wolfed down so early if we had hoped

to last three courses. For starters I had sucuk – a spicy Turkish sausage. The meat was soft and tender. My friend had the falafel – minced, deep fried balls of chick-peas, fresh vegetables, garlic and sesame seeds served with tangy chutney.

When we dined the place had not yet received its alcohol license so was serving soft drinks only but that will change.

For mains I opted for lamb beyti – lamb mince with garlic and parsley on a skewer.

My flatmate had the chicken shish, chunks of soft and tender chicken in a mildly spiced marinade.

A second bowl of bread was also being wolfed down. This was probably a bad idea, and meant we had no room to brave a dessert afterwards. Lovely food and people, so come on people give it a try.

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Fabulous modern four-bed detached in a great location

This fabulous modern, four-bedroomed detached family home in an exclusive development of just three houses, 3 St Peters Road, Netherton, Dudley is for sale through Trinity Property at £259,950.

The accommodation briefly comprises three reception rooms and a conservatory, a fitted breakfast kitchen with a utility room off, four large bedrooms (master with en-suite shower/WC), a driveway to the front with a garage, extensive gardens and a patio area to rear.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Having double glazing and central heating, this family home must be viewed to appreciate it's space and layout."

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor landing and a WC off. The dining room has a glazed door through to the lounge which has sliding French doors to the conservatory, which in turn has a door opening to the rear garden.

The kitchen has a door through to the utility room, which in turn has a door opening to the rear garden and a further door to a second utility room.

Off the first floor the master bedroom has a door opening to its private en-suite shower room and the bathroom includes a shower over the bath.

Trinity Property bring a fresh, friendly and honest approach to selling, buying and letting property within the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

Offering free market appraisals, great EPC prices, and all aspects of property letting and management, they are based in central Dudley and cover Kingswinford, Wordsley, Netherton, Sedgley, Tipton and Tividale and more, with a business built on recommendation.

With many years of experience to bring to the table, you can expect great service at the right price, said a spokesman for the company.

"We can offer you internet marketing on Rightmove, OnTheMarket, TrinityProperty.net and others, as well as local and regional marketing in newspapers including the Express & Star and Chronicles, along with our eye-catching Cerise and Black (Sales) and Yellow and Green (Lettings) boards on the streets.

NETHERTON £259,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property

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EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net

KEY FEATURES

En-suite to master bedroom

Modern fitted kitchen

3 reception rooms

4 bedrooms

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COVENTRY, Underhill Close£1,300 pcm+Fees
A great opportunity to rent this well presented modern 4 bedroom detached property in the sought after location of Fimham/parish of Baginton area, current dated grade: Outstanding on January 21st 2015. This double glazed, gas central heated house has entrance hall, cloakroom, large lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 good size bedrooms with 1 en-suite shower, 3 with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom, garage, driveway & low maintenance garden. EPC: D



SUTTON COLDFIELD, Lichfield Road£795 pcm+Fees
A delightful ground floor two bedroom apartment with an en-suite to master. The property has excellent links to Birmingham City Centre, being located a short walk from the railway station, is gas centrally heated and double glazed and is located in a gated complex with secure allocated parking. No Pets, no DSS. EPC: TBC



KIDDERMINSTER, Grosvenor Avenue£795 pcm+Fees
Stunning 3 storey semi detached town house in a quiet cul-de-sac position within walking distance of Kidderminster train station. Completely refurbished to a very high standard. Front reception room, lounge with feature fireplace with wood-burner, modern fitted kitchen with appliances. Three large double bedrooms, beautiful bathroom with separate shower cubicle and a roll edged clawed foot free standing bath. Not to be missed. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Meadowbrook Road£775 pcm+Fees
Large 3 bed mucklow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, bathroom with shower, garage (storage only), private rear garden, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heating and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree and Lutley Primary School. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Mayfield Road£695 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished detached bungalow set in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very popular residential area close to schools and bus links. Featuring large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double & 1 large bedroom, 2 double bedrooms and a further single. Benefits from a garage and driveway with low maintenance gardens. Very popular area. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



WOLVERHAMPTON, Cheston Drive£650 pcm+Fees
A 3 bedroom detached home located in a quiet cul-de-sac location and benefits gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, garage and paved driveway. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Middlefield Avenue£650 pcm+Fees
Located in Hurst Green this unfurnished semi detached house comprising of 26ft through lounge/dining Room, a fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a further single. Benefits from a garage and driveway with low maintenance gardens. Very popular area. Viewings highly recommended.



CRADLEY HEATH, Surfeit Hill Road£645 pcm+Fees
A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large lounge/diner with access to the garden, modern fitted kitchen, shower to bathroom, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



STOURBRIDGE, Queensway£625 pcm+Fees
A really deceptive and extended 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has recently been fully refurbished, including central heating system, kitchen, shower room, doors and carpets! You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer; there is even a summer house in the garden! driveway, fore/rear gardens. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green is this superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Portsdown Road£595 pcm+Fees
A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached house in sought after area. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of, hall, guest wc, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden driveway and gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: E



EDGBASTON, Shooters Close,£575 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, A stones throw away from Calthorpe Park. This semi-detached home comprising of: Two double bedrooms, large lounge, large kitchen, family bathroom, brand new double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking and a garage, further benefits from front and rear gardens.



STOURBRIDGE, Oakfield Road£575 pcm+Fees
●●● A LONG TERM RENTAL PROPERTY ●●● A really deceptive 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has been fully refurbished in the last 12 months. Featuring a spacious lounge, brand new fitted kitchen and bathroom. You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer. Driveway and garage, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Willetts Drive£575 pcm+Fees
An immaculately presented mid terrace property situated within a sought after and convenient location. This house features living room, modern refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom and an easy to maintain rear garden with views of Clent. Also benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and communal parking. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Silverthorne Lane£525 pcm+Fees
A really well presented modern style 2 bedroom house close to Cradley Heath Train Station and bus links. Lounge with fireplace, large fitted kitchen with new oven/hob, patio doors to rear garden. Upstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Minimum 12 month contract. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Fairmile Road£525 pcm+Fees
Furnished to Suit. Situated in popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town, is this modern furnished 1st floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, very large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens. EPC: E



KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House£525 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite work tops, double bedroom, fully tiled bathroom with shower, study, gas central heating (under floor heating to kitchen & bathroom) double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ladysmith Road£495 pcm+Fees
A mid terrace house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good size bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£440 pcm+Fees
An historic 1st floor apartment situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£425 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features; living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D

PROPERTY



Extended home in popular location has five bedrooms

A splendid extended semi-detached family home in a popular location in Dingle Close, Oakham, Dudley, lies in a cul-de-sac just off the Oakham Road.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £274,995.

Having double glazing and central heating, it has driveway parking

OAKHAM, DUDLEY

£274,995

for at least three cars, an entrance lobby, an entrance hall with stairs off, a downstairs WC, an open-plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear

garden, a utility area, a modern fitted kitchen with breakfast bar and with a family room off. On the first floor there are five, good-sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. Outside the rear garden has decking, lawn and a further play area.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



Beautiful detached home on the goes market

PEDMORE, STOURBRIDGE

£395,000

<<<<

12 Meon Rise, Pedmore, Stourbridge is a beautifully presented and spacious four-bedroomed detached residence on a modern, landmark development.

The property boasts a luxury specification with a kitchen/breakfast room, a large family lounge and dining room with a dual aspect, an enlarged laundry, two en-suites and a private rear garden.

Each room offers individual, stylish décor. The property further benefits from double glazed windows and gas fired central heating. The landscaped rear garden has a paved patio and additional circular seating area and lawn. There is a front driveway for two vehicles.

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LOVELY lady, inside and out, very caring, loving nature, likes music, days out, countryside, poetry, long walks, meals in and out, looking for a gentleman, 65-80. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422255

SARAH, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

JEAN, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTm local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

JOANNE, 48, curly black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

SARA 34yr old single mum looking for a genuine male to make me laugh again and help put the spark back into my life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422541

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Look for me unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

JO 45, hardworking nurse with crazy sense of humour, looking for fun male with plenty of ideas to spice up her spare time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422545

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

LORNA 28, sensual blue-eyed blonde with a beautiful smile, seeking intelligent guy in good shape for new experiences and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422491

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605

BIRMINGHAM female 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 60 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 547559

ROSIE, genuine well educated, sophisticated lady 29yrs WLTm fun loving chap, any age for chats, lunch, discreet meetings. Box: 4124710 Text only

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

JAYNE, bored housewife, 42yrs looking for someone to spice up her days with some fun and jokes. Box: 4155728 Text only

70 years young attractive caring genuine lady, seeks honest reliable man for friendship plus days out and poss LTR. Bristol/Bath area. Text only Mailbox: 4648891

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

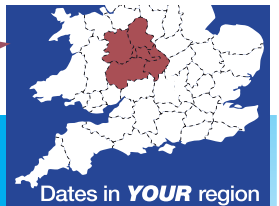
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MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422339

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422411

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469

CARING, honest female, WLTm genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422111

NICOLA 32yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe more with similar open-minded uncomplicated companion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422487

LUCY 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightlife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

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MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 35, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTm like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

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BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male up to 65yr for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439

EMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this n.t. I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

EMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4539974

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5448223

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curly figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTm fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in/out of fire, good wine/food, WLTm similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+ with a caring nature and GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

EMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 5448634

CARING honest female WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

MANDY divorced independent 45yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841

EMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. Text only Mailbox: 5444151

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm white male for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy, easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. Text only Mailbox: 5078990

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583

CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on, don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. Text only Mailbox: 5419773

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves evening/ing, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTm up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTm nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241

Single Men

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MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTm female for intimate adult fun and pleasure. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422637

DAVID, 41yrs still single and looking for Ms Right. He has a good job and a lovely bachelor pad which misses a lady's touch. Box: 4096375 Text only

MATURE male, 50s, looking for a female, 30-60, for adult fun in the b47 area, text only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422619

SUGAR daddy, business man in North Birmingham, would love to spoil a slim woman, any race, children no problem. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422599

50YR old slim, genuine male, seeks female, any age for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 279508

WEST Midlands male, genuine, WLTm similar lady around 52 years old, so please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422567

YOURSELF, 55-70, unattached, want a sane society, love rock and roll, swimming, LTR? This guy 69, unattached, WLTm you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422505

RAMONE, very fit, looking for a like minded lady, any age, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422479

ATTRACTIVE, mature Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks attractive female, 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358113

ATTRACTIVE Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeks attractive, Asian female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351467

JOE, 46, attractive male, GSOH, home/carer work, well travelled, seeking mature lady for friendship possibly more, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422665

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401777

MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTm female for intimate adult fun and pleasure. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557

MALE, 59, 5ft2, seeks honest, caring lady, 45-60, for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422499

YOUNG looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long term relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903

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MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5422168

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422179

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian & Black woman for no strings adult fun. Text only Mailbox: 4223520

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35/64 for discreet relationship/friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5462541

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. Text only Mailbox: 5457564

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STATIC CARAVAN 2 Bedroom
Cotswold Water Park. First to See
will buy. Contact Cameron
£15,995. 07814 224762.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10
6-berth with decking, Mid
Wales. Site fees paid for 2016.
Dog friendly.
£4,500.
07922 351352 No texts.

TOURING CARAVAN 2 berth, Swift
Challenger, 460 SE, 2004, full
cooker, full fridge, loads of extras,
awning, £4,950. 07799 378190.

caravans wanted

WANTED
ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

CARAVAN WANTED Cash on pick
up, ASAP.
Call me on 07717 090817.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything
considered. New or Old
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 12th June
KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

DRUMMER REQUIRED For heavy
rock / metal band, own transport
and equipment essential. If inter-
ested call Jason on 07761 354721.

FENDER RUMBLE bass amp.
Fender precision bass copy, Dig-
itech bass chorus pedal, guitar
leads. £280 ono. 07809 469134.

ticket

TWO TICKETS for ELO, on June 24,
at Barclaycard Arena, C. block.
Offers around £124 each. 07742
835429 or 01299 832655.

TWO TICKETS for ELO, on June 24,
at Barclaycard Arena, C. block.
Offers around £124 each. 01299
832655.

holidays

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday
Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
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www.GoSomerset.co.uk

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED
CHALET On 4* woodland site, pool
& free entertainment. Jun/ Sep
£140pw, July £200pw, School
Holidays £390pw. 07974 226 928.

what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE
CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 18th May
07957 399964

3

Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

SCALEXTRIC SETS. 1 Le-Mans,
(just cars missing), 2 Mini sets, all
good condition and working. £60
ono. Wlton 07770 600683.

furniture

SINGLE 3FT X 6FT Bed, white, steel
frame. With mattress, as new,
unused. £85. 01902 761701.

SINGLE DIVAN BED 2 drawers, as
new, never been used, bought in
error, cost £289 sell for £90. 01902
397753 / 07775 090300.

THREE PIECE SUITE and foot
stool, beige with floral cushions and
arm protectors, as new, cost
£2,000, sell £350. 01902 845202.

in your garden

MOUNTFIELD RV40, 150CC. Hand
propelled petrol mower, as new.
£75 ono. Wolverhampton 07770 600888.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

items wanted

ALL GOLD SGT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Boulton • Worcester Moorcroft
• Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
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A BEST CASH PRICE

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Any gauge or age
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/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,
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01384 836219/07891 713547.
[thetrainmaster67@](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)
hotmail.com

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ALL TOYS, CARS, LORRIES
WANTED.
All conditions
"Dinky" "Corgi" "Spot-on"
"Britains and Airfix"
"Wilesco Steam
Engines" "Star Wars Figures"
"Scalextric Pre 1970's."
"Tri-ang Minic motorways,
cars or complete sets."
"Old Enamel Advertising
Signs" "Railway collections"
"Pre 1970 Annuals wanted,
Beano, Dandy, Rupert the
Bear, etc."
Plus Omega watches.
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/
brassware, all descriptions, miners
lamps, old lamps, dinky, corgi toys
and railways. 01902 745598.

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Top prices paid for the
right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

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I WILL BUY YOUR OLD
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SILVER COINS
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Any quantity.
Immediate cash.
Ring John on 07973 211468
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WANTED
MAMOD STEAM engines/trains
wanted all conditions, railway col-
lections, Dinky, Corgi vehicles, any
condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to care-
fully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

WANTED
Car, motorbike, tractor and
truck sales leaflets, brochures,
books, handbooks, manuals,
models and old motorbike or
scooter.
01743 718323.

specialists at your service

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1 AERIAL INTO
2 ROOMS £90
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OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
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FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing,
concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
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service I get from
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Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"

Michael -
Portway Fencing.

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available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT
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Shed refits
now available!
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gas fitting

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To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
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CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
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undertaken
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SERVICES. For All Your Home and
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Years Experience. Call Mark or
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DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
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FOR ME

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we are really busy!
It definitely
works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

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Experts in all roofing and building aspects
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removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,
flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830670 / 01384 940260.

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20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
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Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates

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office - 01562 640 640

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service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE
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All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials. Sky installation. Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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check if horses have the required
Passport information.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS

Every day our
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great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
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experienced Sales
Advisors on
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pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

PURE BRED kittens and young pure bred cats, to loving, permanent homes only. £150. 01902 894458.

STAFFIE TERRIER 20 months old, not to be around children, Cam. for details. £280. 01902 218944.

TOY COCKAPOO Pups, Mom. is Show Cocka, Dad, Toy Poodle, 1st Vacs, 4 weeks insurance, chipped, From £595. 01952 730522.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy, big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FURNISHED 1 bed flat, Warstones, recent refurb, close to amenities, suit working couple/single. £400 pcm. 07969 104264.

overseas property



HOUSE AND GITE BEAUFICEL, FRANCE
House has two bedrooms and a ensuite and a large living room with open plan dining and kitchen area with a large log burner. Gite has open plan living room / kitchen and upstairs is a bedroom. £130,000.

For more info e-mail steve-carol1@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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properties wanted

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BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We buy any house

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Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

houses for sale

ATTRACTIVE SPACIOUS END PLOT

Three Double bed semi. In village with amenities, near Oswestry. Scope extension, upgrade, DG.

£139,950. Greenfields. 01691 680044.

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 316 COMPACT, 2003, blue, MoT November, 102k, alloys, full electrics. Immaculate. £1,000. 07930 347986.

BMW 318i CONVERTIBLE 1996 N reg, MoT 2017, dark blue, new tyres, hard top fitted, hood need replacing, hood electrics need attention, good runner. £900.

01384 637431 (evenings) or 07768 292673.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, 04 reg, petrol, 89k, 11 months MoT, good runner, clean car, 11 months MoT, £625. 07752 698204.

CITROEN PICASSO DIESEL 2002, 6 months MoT, all MoTs, £395 overall, first to see will buy £795. 01922 684503 / 07730 888063.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2, 5 door, 2004 reg, light blue, only 68k, MoT, Excellent condition, only £795.

Telephone 07399 675758.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2, Petrol 54 plate, MoT till Dec 16, 60,500 miles. Good runner. Perfect first car. £1,200. o.n.o. 07711 112491.

FORD FIESTA 02, 64k, AC, alarm, 3 months MoT, new battery, cambelt, £1,150.

01902 751418.

FORD FOCUS ESTATE 2006, 97k miles, diesel, blue electric windows and mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, tow bar, 6 gears. £1,250 ono

07876 651151.

MAZDA MX5 1.8, 1999, 81,000 miles, fsh, alarm, long MoT. Last owner for 13 years. Drives well, great car for the Summer. £1,200 ono. 07966 292671.

PERODUA MYVI 2007, Lady Owner, Genuine 28,000 Miles from new, air con, FSH, MoT March 2017, excellent condition

£1,495 ono. 01902 663180.

PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE 2002, 82k miles, Silver, 11 months MoT. Full service completed, ideal 1st car! £650 ono. 01902 897915.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Campus, new MoT, 57 plate (reg 2008) from MoT, excellent condition throughout, £1,500. 07971 360809.

ROVER 45 Impression, 1.4, 02, 12 months MoT, 64k, lovely condition throughout, well looked after. £550. 07733 437736.

ROVER 45 SPIRIT 1.6, 02, 1 owner from new, only 42k miles, service history, MoT, metallic blue, good condition, £695. 07580 163956.

ROVER 75, 05 reg, 40,000, MoT Jan 17, head gasket, needs repair, silver, leather, Spares or Repair. Offers. 01902 844605.

ROVER 75 DIESEL long MoT, 52, Immaculate, heated seats, leather interior, new clutch, 1 owner. £900. 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

ROVER 75 TOURER 2.0 diesel, 02 reg, long MoT, 125k miles. £900 or part exchange for MPV or Van. Telephone 07754 121452.

VAUXHALL ASTRA, new shape, 54 reg, EW, EM, A/C, long MoT, 5dr, metallic paintwork, alloys, CD player £895. ono. 07754 557861.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 52 plate Diesel 7-ets, elec sunroof/windows, A/C, alloys, towbar, Blue MoT March 2017 £475. o.n.o. 01902 656638.

VW GOLF 1.9 TDI, black, 53 reg, 5 door, 61k, 12 months MoT, ew, sunroof, alloy wheels, great condition. £1,400 ono. 07860 655421.

VW POLO 1.4 16V 51 reg, 57k, met grey, 4 mths MoT, alloys, very good condition, needs some attention £400 ono. 07496 069550.

cars over £1500

CITROEN C4, 2008, 2 door, hatch-back, 1.6 VTR petrol, blue, 36,000 miles, fsh, MoT, good condition. £2,685 ono. 07847 456061.

CITROEN XSARA Picasso Desire, 16v, 1.6, 2006, silver, CD radio, EW, EM, 84k, long MoT, excellent condition £1,595. 01384 401205.

FORD FIESTA TITANIUM New Shape, black, 5dr, 1.6, 09 reg, (Aug 09), 31k, MoT Nov 16, E/W, E/M, alloys, hands free blue tooth phone kit, perfect runner. £3,750 ono.

07528 372995 / 07813 141794.

FORD KUGA 2.0TDCi, 61, black metallic, Immaculate in and out, 80,200 miles, Dealer FSH, full MoT, £7,600 ono. 07971 783740.

FORD MONDEO Titanium X, 2.2, 2009, 39k, hypotic silver, Immaculate, 1 owner, sunroof, rear spoiler, FFSH, £6,995. 07976 584250.

HONDA CIVIC 1.8, 6 speed, 2007, drive clean and very tidy, 9 months MoT, £2,000.

Wombourne 07713 480661.

PEUGEOT 307 automatic, 2007, 30,000 miles, MoT May 2017, grey, excellent condition, £2,400 ono. 07830 626561.

SAAB 95 LINEAR SPORT Estate, 2005, diesel, fsh, 10 months MoT, paintwork scotchguarded, £2,500 ono. 01902 762842.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4 2008, 67,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloy wheels. CD Player, Cam belt

£2,400 ono 07788 997712.

SUBARU FORESTER LIMITED EDITION

2010, Platinum leather interior, removable towbar, 2.0 diesel, manual, 96,000 miles, charcoal grey met, 1 owner from new, FSH, MoT from March.

£5,750.

07711 682345.

SUZUKI ALTO 1000cc, auto, 2009, 20k miles, pensioners car, economical, reliable, any age. £500. 01902 753545, 07800 637961.

VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2CC One owner, immaculate condition, MoT, FSH, £1,795. 07745 922328.

VW GOLF PLUS S 2006, TDI 1.9 diesel, 5dr, 77k, fsh, new cambelt, new MoT, AC, EW, RCL £3,400 07788 990608. Kidderminster.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL

01902 317878

classic cars

MERCEDES SLK 230 auto, red convertible, 1998, 49,000 miles, £4,000 ono. 07850 336652.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

10 Hours £99! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered ADIPO REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10

01432 458160 / 01562 870050

01384 234954 / 0121 5640090

01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

SUZUKI 125 Gamma, long MoT, tidy bike, worth seeing. £675 ono. 07841 163389 or 01543 503349.

YAMAHA YBR 125cc, A1 Condition, 900 miles from new. £1,795. o.v.n.o. 07568 590216.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

A1 AUTOS WANTED

CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP, MOT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION

£50-£10,000

WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS

07527 303 336

(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

WANTED JAGUAR XK8

Private buyer, looking to buy an XK8 convertible or similar, must be in fantastic condition.

Telephone 07709 131955.

WANTED Private buyer requires small 1st time car, good condition and reliable. 07939 090666.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

DOREEN BETTY BASTABLE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Spinney Hollies Drive Mucklow Hill Halesowen B62 8NX, who died on 05/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 19/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

INHERITANCE MATTERS
PO Box 5510 Stourbridge DY8 9AW 0743363

JAMES RICHARD KENNETH ASHILL (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 138 Lodgefield Road Halesowen West Midlands, who died on 24/10/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 19/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BBH Legal Services Limited
Eastham Hall 109 Eastham Village Road Eastham Wirral Cheshire CH62 0AF 0743845

10

Personals

personal

Angels

The largest adult website in the Midlands

Adult, Gay, Bi, Trans, Lesbian, Crossdress, Fetish, etc.

Unit 5 Frederick Street, Halesowen, Walsall, West Midlands. B62 9SE

01922 635544

A BRITISH INDIAN 51 YEARS OLD.

Would like to meet single woman for nights in and out, wine bars, holidays in UK and abroad.

Must be single.

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Own house and car. WLTM lady of similar age for possible Friendship / relationship, quality time together. Halesowen / Blackheath area. Other areas considered.

Box Number P20386, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE ATTRACTIVE SLIM MAN 53

GSOH, car owner, would like to meet genuine lady 40-58 for evenings, days out and friendship.

Box Number P20373, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WOULD LIKE TO START AGAIN

Gornal man 59, GSOH, own home and car, non smoker, young at heart, enjoys cosy nights, country walks, old pubs, meals in/out, visiting interesting places, music, WLTM local females, loving, trustworthy slimish build, for friendship / relationship.

If serious, would like a photo (returned).

Box Number P20375, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, EARLY 60's
Easy going, sincere, WLTM, nice active lady age between 45-60 for Friendship / relationship. I enjoy evenings out, holidays, countryside etc.

Box Number P20372, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MAN seeks Woman

Write Box No. P20382 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

NO FUN LIVING ALONE!

Tall, cheerful, placid, decent, respectable Black Country Chap 66, own house, no ties, old-fashioned values, seeks lady 50 - 70 for soulmate, possible marriage, sharing lives adventures.

Box Number P20369, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ROMANTIC MALE

51, 5ft 11ins, likes travel, meals out, cinema, concerts and keep fit. Seeks lady to love.

Please write to **Box Number P20383**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TALL TRIM MALE

55 years, honest and caring with own house and car, seeks lady 45-55 years for long term relationship, must be honest and sincere for holidays UK and abroad.

Box Number P20380, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY N/S, EDUCATED, LATE 70'S LONELY WIDOWER

Own house and car, seeks n/s female company for enjoyable times, cinema, theatre, day trips, holidays etc.

Car owner preferred, close to WV6, Tettenhall.

Box Number P20370, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG AT HEART
Retired Widow would like to meet Friend, male or female for days out, holidays, possible car and none smoker, West Midlands area.

Box Number P20376, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

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Award winning amateur pantomime company are seeking young adults to fill a limited number of vacancies for the 2017 production at Perton Civic Hall of 'Puss in Boots'. We are also seeking quality dancers to augment our troop.

Auditions on Saturday, June 11, 2pm at St. Paul's Church, Pendeford, WV9 5LS.

Ring or text 07774 340333.

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Award winning amateur pantomime company are seeking young adults to fill a limited number of vacancies for the 2017 production at Perton Civic Hall of 'Puss in Boots'. We are also seeking quality dancers to augment our troop.

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Pick of the week



The Hive at Kew Gardens

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- ✓ Return coach travel
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- ✓ Entrance to Kew Gardens
- ✓ Entrance to RHS Wisley
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 25

Discover the incredible life of a bee thanks to a unique multi sensory experience called the Hive.

This award-winning structure was created for the 2015 World Expo in Milan and has been creating a buzz ever since, attracting swarms of visitors who are keen to step inside a huge bee colony.

The Hive will take up its new home for a short time at the spectacular Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, which contains a stunning array of plant life, glasshouses and galleries.

It won multiple awards including gold medal for best architecture and landscape design, stands 17 metres tall and weighs in at around 40 tonnes, with hundreds of glowing LED lights, orchestral sounds and an undercurrent of buzzes and pulses which bring it to life. Other attractions at Kew include the Temperate House, the Princess of Wales Conservatory with its 10 different climatic zones, the Palm House and its collection of rainforest species, plus the 50 metre high Pagoda.

A visit is also made to RHS Garden Wisley. Here the Glasshouse is a particular highlight which is home to all kinds of exotic plants. The mixed borders are another highlight, provide one of the most famous views of the garden, and are filled with bulbs, annuals, hardy and tender perennials, shrub and pollarded trees.

From
£129

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- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to the Duxford Air Show at the Imperial War Museum Duxford
- ✓ Visit to Bletchley Park
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 10

From
£159

Emmerdale The Tour

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Visit to Emmerdale The Tour, including a guided walking tour
- ✓ Visit to Esholt - 'Emmerdale village' and Otley - 'Hotton'
- ✓ Stop at the original 'Woolpack' pub in Esholt
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: September 25

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- ✓ Scenic visit to Queen Elizabeth Forest including Aberfoyle
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- ✓ Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia
- ✓ Cruise on Loch Lomond
- ✓ Visits to Edinburgh and Glasgow
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 5 DEPARTS: October 16

From
£329

Windsor Castle, Tower of London and Cutty Sark

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Windsor Castle and the Tower of London
- ✓ Entrance to Cutty Sark
- ✓ Free time in Windsor and London
- ✓ Visit to Henley-on-Thames and Royal Greenwich
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Aug 26, Sept 9

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DAYS: 4 TO 8 DEPARTS: Various

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Aug 26, Sept 9

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From
£189

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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 3 DEPARTS: September 29

BBC Good Food Bakes and Cakes Show

From
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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: November 12

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- ✓ Visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau
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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Various 2016/17

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Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various 2016

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The Sorrento peninsula and bay of Naples is simply one of the most beautiful corners of Europe.

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- ✓ Cruise to the island of Capri
- ✓ Tour of the Amalfi coast
- ✓ Visits to Ravello and Vesuvius
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel ABTA (V4744, ATOL 3430)

DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various 2016



Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises). Please note the Star Reader Travel department is unable to take bookings.

XLV, like a Tivoli but bigger

SSANGYONG has announced the new Tivoli XLV, an extended body model of its already popular Tivoli compact SUV.

"Following rapid growth in the compact SUV market, SsangYong responded in 2015 by launching Tivoli, its first small SUV, and already the company's most successful new car. Some 64,000 cars were manufactured and sold around the world last year," said Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK.

"Tivoli has been praised universally for meeting a number of customer requirements, not least its ability to carry five adults in comfort and with one of the largest boot capacities, while many other cars in the sector are regarded as being a 'down-size' too far.

"Now SsangYong has gone a step further by launching an extended car to provide even more carrying capacity and practicality.

"This was shown as the XLV Air concept at the IAA motor show in Frankfurt last year, and from the extremely favourable feedback received, took the decision to put the car into production.

"Following its international debut at Geneva, the Tivoli XLV is now being launched in Europe, and arrives in the UK this summer. Annual sales from the Tivoli platform including XLV are forecast to exceed 100,000 cars this year," he added.

Sharing the same platform and 2,600mm wheelbase as the Tivoli, the XLV features a lengthened body from behind the C pillar, an increase of 238mm over the standard car, expanding the load capacity to a huge 720 cubic litres of space. Meanwhile, the styling cues that distinguish Tivoli are retained, including its harmoniously fused SUV body design, sports coupé look and floating roofline.

Designed to offer a multi-role, multi-function solution to a wide range of customers, Tivoli XLV provides just the versatility needed to meet individual lifestyles: family car for lugging baby buggies and cots for small children, bikes and golf clubs for the sports-minded, and materials or business equipment during the working week.

Passenger safety has been a top priority for this car, and comes with seven airbags including front, side and curtain airbags plus a driver's knee airbag, multi-function ESP (Electronic Stability Program), Active Rollover Protection, Brake Assist, Hill Start Assist and ESS (Emergency Stop Signal), a tyre pressure monitoring system and a warning reminder on all five seat belt positions.

Smooth

Tivoli XLV is offered with a Euro 6 compliant 1.6 litre diesel engine, and matched with the option of a 6-speed manual transmission or 6-speed Aisin automatic, two-wheel drive or 4x4.

The newly developed 1.6 litre e-XDi160 Euro 6 diesel engine produces 115ps/3,400-4,000rpm max power with 300Nm/1,500-2,500rpm, and delivers a smooth, progressive and powerful driving experience. It also features a fifth generation E-VGT turbocharger which maximises performance especially in the mid-low speed range so it is fun and responsive to drive. With manual transmission there's also ISG (stop/start) to meet the demand for low CO2 emission levels.

The 1.6 litre diesel engine achieves a CO2 emission level of just 117g/km (two-wheel drive, manual transmission with Stop/Start), and economy of up to 62.8mpg on the Combined cycle.

The SsangYong DNA is all about 4x4, and the Tivoli XLV draws on this by offering the option of an intelligent 4-wheel drive system.



The electronically controlled on-demand system distributes power to front and rear drive shafts, and automatically adjusts to the road surface and driving conditions to optimise performance.

In normal driving, the drive system distributes all power to the front wheels to enhance fuel efficiency, and automatically adapts to 4-wheel drive in snow or wet slippery conditions, by diverting power to the rear wheels as well to ensure driving stability.

For increased stability and reassurance, particularly when driving on a hill or slope, the 4-wheel drive operates with Hill Start Assist which helps by delivering power to any wheels that are spinning. And for optimised braking

performance, ESP and ABS also control the 4x4 system for greater safety.

With a 167mm ground clearance, approach angle of 20.0 degrees, 20.8 degree departure angle, and 17.0 degree ramp angle, a highly competent off-road capability is assured.

Comprehensively equipped, the Tivoli XLV features digital-dual zone automatic air conditioning, an infotainment system with RDS radio, 7" high-resolution touch screen, USB/AUX port, iPod & Bluetooth connectivity, Tom-Tom navigation and rear view camera.

There is cruise control, parking sensors front and rear, rain sensing wipers, automatic headlight activation and stylish roof rails.

All models in the SsangYong range are covered by a best-in-class five year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system.

Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,500 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.



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IT didn't take many miles in the Mercedes SL to consider swinging away from home and heading south to Nice, immediately. Or anywhere with plentiful mixtures of sun and gracious living, really. For here in the £73,810 – current entry level – version of a convertible line that has adorned luxury harboursides for decades is a car that wants you to enjoy life at the top.

Indeed, there may not be a better way yet devised of taking two people from their home in a high end postcode to the marina or yacht basin, there to be reunited with Seagull, Ocean Queen ... or whatever name the owner's wife broke a bottle of champagne over at the launch.

Simple figures have never told even half the story of an SL, currently available in four grades of urge and luxury and culminating in a 12 cylinder, 630 horsepower, £172,000 AMG machine that will make a hen's tooth look commonplace by comparison.

Forget the numbers (they are all limited to the response limit set by most German car makers of fast cars, Porsche excepted) and concentrate instead on the way every SL has trodden the taste tightrope between brash, brawn and beauty.

Mostly they've found an admirable middle point, straying only occasionally into the gaudy or vulgar.

To these eyes the current version, especially perhaps in this least expensive SL 400 guise, can confidently assume the mantle of privilege with a touch of decorum, even fitted with 19inch AMG alloy wheels in high gloss black (£895) and doors sills that light up with Mercedes-Benz lettering (£215) and remind you what you've bought as you slip aboard at night.

Performance

But if you ever needed proof positive that a touch under seventy-four grand brings a car that allows the full SL experience, and that mere figures mean little in this car's world, consider this: for comfortably more than double the base model's price (£73,810 plays £173,315) you save 0.9 seconds on the dash to 62mph – and both cars will top out, pretty promptly, at that artificially limited 155mph already mentioned.

Of course, the 12-cylindere SL 65 deploys its 630 horses to give blinding performance in any gear, at any speed. It will also make a noise at takeoff that would silence a St Tropez cafe full of ladies doing lunch.

But the humbler SL 400 would not be considered an even slightly less delightful way for any of them to return to that charming villa in the hills.

Its 362bhp will be more than adequate and its smooth nine-speed automatic gearbox slurs the changes so gently you won't even notice.

Outside and – especially – inside, this SL feels simply very special indeed. From just right touches of silver-glinting alloy and caressingly soft leather to a level of fit and finish that must have meant all leave cancelled at the Bremen plant where it was built, this is a car that makes an owner glow with pride of ownership.

And with a specification that even in its least expensive expression takes pages of closely spaced sentences to explain, it may be just as well that SLs of any generation since the first of 1954 tend to stick around long enough to become treasured family heirlooms.

For the record, your price list starter version comes with an aluminium folding roof that works in either direction at around-town speeds, enough safety features to make a risk assessment obsessive puce with envy and sufficient luxury touches to have you studying the handbook as after-dinner homework.

Perhaps from the afterdeck of the good ship Seagull....

TESTED

Mercedes-Benz SL 400 AMG Line

Engine: 3.0 litre petrol engine, 362bhp

Warranty: Three years, unlimited miles

Economy: The SL 400 can do 36.7mpg officially

Insurance group: 50

Price: £73,810



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Blakenall Bashers finished having won two, drawn one and lost two of their games



Blakenall Bashers keeper Tony Spruce, aged 73



Rachel Smith, centre, with DudCel's Patel Heena and Jayne Knight



DudCel player Paul Paul Osborne makes a pass

Football game a walk in the park for competitors

SPORTING FEATURE By Joe Edwards

THEY say age is just a number and that certainly proved to be the case as walking football took over Molineux recently.

Over the past few years the sport has become a big hit, with thousands across the country rediscovering their love for the beautiful game thanks to the slowed-down version.

At Wolves, competitors well into their 80s lived the dream by playing on the hallowed turf in a six-team competition.

The teams involved – Bert Williams Old Boys, Blakenall Bashers, DudCel, GetSet2Go, Pete Clarke Wolves and Platty's Pensioners – played in a six-a-side round-robin format, each game lasting 10 minutes.

Unlike the traditional points system, teams were awarded five for a win, three for a draw and one for a defeat, and, after more than two hours of competition, Bert Williams Old Boys were crowned champions after going through the tournament unbeaten and picking up 21 points.

The event, organised by Black Coun-

"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining."

try In Motion, was part of the annual Wolves Community Trust Project Day.

Rachel Smith, sports activator for Black Country In Motion, said: "The players spent two hours on the pitch as part of the Wolves Community Trust Project Day."

"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining but it was really good to be involved with. The project day is an annual event and walking football is growing all of the time."

She added: "There was somebody who was 86 who played (Dennis Whistance from Bentley, who turned out for Pete Clarke Wolves). I think it was a lifelong ambition of his to play at Molineux as well."

"It is a great sport, especially for

those who didn't think they would be able to carry on playing after their 40s or 50s. All in all, it was a really good day."

Walking football was first developed by Chesterfield FC's Community Trust in 2011 to keep over-50s on the pitch.

In the five years since, it has grown at an incredible rate and there are now more than 400 teams around the country. Based on the traditional game, walking football has specific rules which sees a free-kick awarded to the other side for running, while there is no offside rule and slide tackles are banned.

Substitutions are roll-on, roll-off, and the ball must remain below hip height. It was originally played without any goalkeepers but the likes of 64-year-old Stourbridge man John Cattermole and Tony Spruce, 73, were between the sticks for Bert Williams Old Boys and Blakenall Bashers respectively at Molineux.

There are plans to have another walking football competition at Molineux next year.



Dennis Whistance, aged 86, played for Pete Clarke Wolves



Dave Wright, aged 67, and grandson Billy, nine



DudCel's Dek Dudfield on the move during one of his side's games in the Molineux tournament



Peter Jenkins of DudCel up against Steve Morris of Bert Williams Old Boys at Molineux

Sport

Walk on! Molineux competition proves stroll in park for players

Page 35



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Bate is first Briton home in Europeans

BLACK Country Triathletes were competing far and wide as the season sees longer distance triathlon races taking place.

A large club contingent made their way to the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham to take on the Outlaw Half Triathlon. This comprised a 1,900m open water swim, 90km bike and a 21k run, all in under nine hours to be considered an Outlaw.

Chris Wood was first home for the club in 4:30:28 finishing 20th overall and second in his age group 40-44. Neil Millward came in at 4:47:46, followed by Jon Link in 5:01:00, Tim Lake 5:22:23, Matt Price 5:31:16, Paul Silk 5:57:24, Dave Evans 6:47:54 and Lorraine Gayton 7:31:31.

The weekend also saw Keith Bate and Steve Blakemore racing in Lisbon, Portugal, representing Great Britain at the European Triathlon Championships. Bate raced in the sprint distance and came home fourth overall in his age group and first Brit home, Blakemore competed in the standard distance and came home 21st out of a large field of 76 in his age group.

Closer to home several athletes raced the Tri UK Shropshire Triathlon at Ellesmere with three of them taking podium places. Gary Bonner finished third overall in the sprint distance race and first in his age category, Lee Moreton taking third in his age group for the standard distance race and Gemma Evans finishing first in her age group, also in the standard distance race.

The juniors section also did their club proud with Reece Ashfield racing in the Nottingham Sprint Triathlon finishing 28th overall and first youth. There were no medals taken at the Warwickshire Junior Triathlon but all the club athletes that took part had great races with some fantastic sprint finishes for the line.

Jordanne warms up for Wimbledon with a doubles triumph

JORDANNE WHILEY says her confidence is high for Wimbledon after wrapping up her second Roland Garros doubles title with Japanese partner Yui Kamiji.

Halesowen's Whiley made up for semi-final defeat in the wheelchair singles event with a thrilling tie-break triumph alongside Kamiji.

The pair were pushed all the way by Dutch top seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot. But from 5-3 down in the deciding tie-break, Whiley and Kamiji won seven of the next eight points to successfully regain the title they won for the first time in 2014. They are now seven-time Grand Slam doubles champions, having won two Australian Opens, two French titles, two Wimbledon titles and one US Open crown.

"It's been a very successful week in the end with another Grand Slam title and finishing off with an ace," said Whiley, the reigning US Open women's singles champion, who also beat world No.1 Griffioen earlier in the week to reach the singles semi-finals. "I'm really confident for Wimbledon now."

Ladies team will grow thanks to grant

SKY Sports News presenter Hayley McQueen has congratulated Gornal Ladies FC after they received a £4,500 Grow the Game grant from the Football Foundation.

The grant from the country's largest sports provider, will boost grassroots football in Gornal and surrounding areas and will pave the way for Gornal Ladies FC to create a new girls academy and three new teams at open age, u-9s and u-11s – adding to their existing teams. It will also help to fund a number of coaches by providing access to FA coaching qualifications.

The Grow the Game scheme is designed to increase participation among under-represented

Football

groups by helping clubs to meet the essential costs of starting new teams. It is funded by the Premier League and The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation.

Grow the Game grants enable clubs to provide regular football for three specific sections of society where there is a demand, but a lack of opportunities. These sections are: women and girls; disabled players; and boys and mens' teams from the under-15 age group and above.

Alan Moore, chairman of Gornal Ladies and

Gornal Colts said: "This grant will be a massive boost to our plans to grow the participation in the girls and ladies game within the local Gornal community and surrounding areas."

McQueen, a Football Foundation Ambassador, said: "Grants like this one make a real difference to grassroots football."

"They help clubs meet the costs associated with starting a new team – like getting volunteer coaches qualified with FA coaching badges – and so help to drive up participation levels in the sport, especially amongst under-represented groups."

Tributes as snooker ace dies at 82

THE funeral takes place next week of Stourbridge snooker stalwart Frank Golding, who has died at the age of 82.

Mr Golding, of Kinner Constitutional Club, died on Saturday, May 21, following a long and brave battle against cancer. He will be laid to rest at Cole Street Methodist Church, Netherton, on Monday June 13. The funeral cortege is scheduled to pause outside the club around midday.

He began to play for Old Hill Conservative Club in the Stourbridge & District Snooker League in the early 1960s, along with his life-long friend, Ron Smith. They had a season playing for Kingswinford British Legion, then, having to miss a season in accordance with league rules at that time, switched to Kingswinford Conservative Club.

They began to play for Kinner in the newly opened snooker room there in the early 1970s but while Smith continues to represent the club with great success, Mr Golding's illness forced him to stand down from the team just over three years ago. He was a very good player, having most wins in the top division on one occasion.

He will also be remembered for his success as a local cricketer.

Mr Golding was asked to play for Dudley 3rd XI by the school's New Zealand cricket coach, Bill Bennett, in 1950, aged 16. Having taken seven wickets on his debut, Mr Golding played for the 2nd XI the following week, taking six wickets, and was promoted to the first XI the next week, where he stayed, opening the bowling for the next 24 years.

He resisted the call to represent the county for £7 per week, in summer months only, to concentrate on his business activities. After reaching the age of 40, Mr Golding then played for Enville Cricket Club, serving them with distinction for more than 20 years.

Pottinger looking to get the job done

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger insists his riders will need to focus on getting the job done against Buxton at Monmore next Monday. The Heathens start their Knockout Cup second leg tie level with the Hitmen at 44-all.

And Pottinger is looking for more of an all-round team performance from his side. "It's going to be important for us to get off to a good start to try and put the tie to bed early," he said.

Cradley legend Simon Cross is back at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday, June 20, from 8pm. Tickets are £6, or £5 for season ticket holders and Heathens Supporters' Trust members.

★★★

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Thursday, June 9, 2016



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HALES READY TO CHALLENGE

HALESOWEN Cricket Club Chairman Richard Evans believes his team are one win away from launching a promotion challenge.

The Halesowen First XI maintained third position in the Birmingham and District League Division Two courtesy of a resounding win at Oswestry CC.

They put in a fine bowling effort, with new overseas player Dylan Ross-Watt taking 3-44 as they dismissed the Shropshire side for 127.

Opener Ed Kilbee (87*) led their run-chase, carrying his bat until the end of the innings as they overcame a shaky start to comfortably reach their target in just 24 overs, winning six wickets.

As they prepare to travel to Shifnal on Saturday (noon), Evans believes another win would leave them well-placed to launch a challenge for promotion over the second half of the season.

"We have a set of plans for the season for each team and by and large we are on track," said Evans. "It was great to see Dylan Ross-Watt get off to a flying start with the ball and his presence will be a factor in the success of the 1st XI season, that's for sure. The first team are sitting nicely in third with a big game next week which will allow us to assess our realistic promotion chances."

Draw

The Second XI earned a winning draw from their clash with Walmley as the Seth Somers Park last weekend to move up to sixth in the table ahead of their home fixture against Shifnal on Saturday (12.30).

Mohammad Shaub (58) and Mark Fisher (50) both reached half-centuries to help them to a total of 250-8 from 50 overs. A fine bowling effort featuring three wickets from Shaub and two apiece for Chris Jones and Deon Patel was not enough to dismiss their opponents, who held out for a draw at 229-9.

It was another afternoon to forget for the Third XI as they slipped to a disappointing defeat. They were dismissed for just 89 by Five Ways Old Edwardians with 14-year-old Talha Iqbal (26) the only positive from a disappointing performance. With the opposition cruising to a nine-wicket win in just 14 overs, they are rooted to the bottom. They travel to Claverley this weekend.

Young players' festival success



Tipton Youth Under-14s and Dietmar Hamann with their trophies

TIPTON Youth Under-14s rubbed shoulders with a former Liverpool star after winning the ESF Festival of Football.

They dominated the tournament, held at Butlin's Minehead, going eight games unbeaten and not conceding a single goal. They were then presented with their trophy by Dietmar Hamann.

The triumph means they automatically qualify for the ESF Grand Finale, the champion of champions event, which takes place in July at England's St George's Park training base in Burton.

German legend Hamann said: "With so many teams involved, being crowned ESF Champions

is no mean feat, so congratulations to Tipton Youth FC."

Tipton Youth have two teams at under-14 level, one in the Midland Junior Premier League and the other in Division One of the Stourbridge and District Youth League.

Tipton Youth manager Spencer Weston said: "It is a massive annual festival and we did really well because we only had 12 lads there, so one substitute. We didn't lose a game and didn't concede a single goal."

"To be crowned ESF Champions in the under-14 tournament and to be presented the trophy by Didi Hamann was a fantastic way to finish the season."

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Finance Deposit Allowance	£1,400.00
Amount of Credit	£8,481.20
Interest Charges	£999.35
Arrangement fee	£149.00
Credit arrangement fee	£149.00

Optional Final Payment	£4,139.00
Fixed rate of interest	£3.93%
Duration of agreement	48 months
Total Amount Payable	£13,179.55
Excess mileage charge	£0.09
Annual mileage	5,000 p.a.

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